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Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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75¢

CNMI economy grew 3 pct in 2014

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» 'Private sector construction and business purchases highest contributor to growth'

Growth in private fixed investment, consumer spending, and exports of service led to a 3-percent increase in gross domestic product for the Commonwealth in 2014, marking the third consecutive year the CNMI economy has grown.

The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis released yesterday its estimates of GDP for the CNMI, in addition to estimates for GDP by industry and compensation by industry for 2013. The bureau has also released the first comprehensive revision of economic accounts in the U.S. ter-

See CNMI on Page 4

Man also killed as car slams into tree, power pole

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

» Police determine alcohol, speeding factors in fatal crash

One of the three occupants in a car that struck a pine tree and a power pole near a funeral home in San Jose last Saturday night died the following morning at the Commonwealth Health Center.

Department of Public Safety acting spokesman Jason Tarkong disclosed yesterday that the victim, a 29-year-old Asian male, was pronounced dead by Dr. Esther Knayjorn on Sunday at 11:44am.

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DEREK GERSONDE

A 29-year-old Asian male died when this white 2006 Hyundai Azera four-door sedan reportedly ran off the roadway and hit a pine tree and a power pole in San Jose Saturday night.

WOMEN'S MONTH DENNIS B. CHAN

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres stands outside the Office of the Governor building with a crowd of supporters after signing a proclamation declaring March 2016 as CNMI Women's Month.

See story on Page 3

Local GOP set to endorse Presidential candidate on March 15

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

The local Republican Party will vote for its presidential candidate this March 15 and also vote for its locally elected delegates on the same day, local GOP spokesperson Ivan Blanco told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

The endorsement of a presidential candidate will come via the votes of these locally elected delegates.

The CNMI has nine delegates who will be representing the party at the Republican National Convention, scheduled for Cleveland, Ohio in July.

So far, GOP candidate representatives for Donald Trump, Jeb Bush, and Dr. Ben Carson have visited the CNMI ahead of the local caucus to gain support.

While the Trump and Bush advisor's largely expressed a desire to learn the issues in the CNMI, Carson, for his part, has detailed an outline of initiatives to appoint a Territory and Commonwealth Advisory Committee (TCAC) consisting of representatives from American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern

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INSIDE

LOCAL
Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Victor Hocog have declared March 2016 as National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month yesterday.
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LOCAL
The Northern Marianas Trades Institute's Culinary Arts Program recently held its final exam at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.
» PAGE 13

LIFE & STYLE
In an underdog win for a movie about an underdog profession, the newspaper drama "Spotlight" took best picture Sunday.
» PAGE 19

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Local

CUC board delays action on IRP

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
frauleine_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
The majority of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board of directors opted to delay their decision on its Integrated Resource Plan during their special board meeting last Saturday. The board instead wanted to renegotiate their $371 million contract with Mobil.

The majority of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board of directors has opted to delay its decision on the company's Integrated Resource Plan that has been in the works since 2014—leaving CUC without a plan to present to the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission on April regarding their resource plan.

» Majority sided with San Nicolas' motion to return to negotiating table with Mobil

During their special meeting on Saturday, prior to discussion in executive session, CUC legal counsel James Sirok reminded the board to finalize the IRP.

"We have to finalize the IRP today so we can get that taken care of," Sirok said.

» Board did not support Sablan's motion to choose a case plan from Leidos

CUC has been developing the IRP with their consultant—Leidos Engineering LLC whom they paid $495,000 for its services—to choose feasible, cost-effective, and reliable resources for their power generation.

Coming out after more than one hour of closed-door discussion, director David Sablan immediately made a motion for the board to approve Case No. 12 in the presentation provided them, which will include "10-megawatts of photovoltaic power and pursuing light fuel oil diesel engines that can be converted to liquefied natural gas."

"I would motion that we approve that as a priority process in the IRP and so that will allow our engineers to work on that as a priority," Sablan said.

Nobody from the board wanted to second Sablan's motion, but after Sablan said that someone just second the motion so that they could vote on it, Torres did.

However, the majority of the board did not want to take action on the IRP even as CUC's almost 40-year-old power infrastructure is continuing to depreciate as days go by. Currently, CUC's assets are more than 70 percent depreciated.

"I am under the impression that we don't have to approve the IRP at this point," vice chair Eric San Nicolas said.

San Nicolas argued that there are "other avenues" to address the power plant issue, which he would later on make a motion on.

Sablan disagreed with San Nicolas' opinion, saying that if they are to take a different route, "Why did we have Leidos do this all then for the past year plus?"

"What vice chair San Nicolas is suggesting that we just put that off to the side and do something different," Sablan said.

"There are bidders that are waiting for a decision on our part on whether they are going to get an award, and so that they can move forward. The engineers are waiting for some direction from us, we need to give it to them," he added.

Sablan argued that Leidos is smarter than the board with regards to power generation and should therefore consider their recommendations.

However, Sablan's motion failed after San Nicolas, Albert Taitano, and Joe Torres voted no and chair Adelina Roberto and Ignacio Perez abstained.

Renegotiate with Mobil

San Nicolas then made a mo-

See CUC on Page 4

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, the State Rehabilitation Council will hold its FY 2016 First General Membership Meeting on Tuesday, March 08, 2016 at the Lilac Room, Saipan World Resort from 2:30 pm - 4:30 p.m.
Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

I. **Call to Order**
II. **Roll Call**
III. **Review and Adoption of Agenda of March 8, 2016**
IV. **Review and Adoption of Meeting Minutes of September 24, 2015**
V. **Action Item**
   a. Review/Approval of VR Portion of the Unified State Plan 2017-2020
VI. **Reports**
   a. SRC Chairperson
   b. QA/QI Committee Chairperson
   c. Employment/Marketing Committee Chairperson
   d. Transition/Assistive Technology Committee Chairperson
   e. Transportation/Housing/Advocacy Committee Chairperson
   f. OVR Director
VII. **Old Business**
   a. Update on WIOA Training of January 11-15, 2016
VIII. **New Business**
   a. CNMI Disability Network Partners
   b. Developmental Disabilities and Employment Awareness Month (March 2016)
   c. Autism Awareness Month (April 2016)
   d. State Plan for Independent Living 2017-2019
IX. **Consumer Forum**
X. **Miscellaneous/Announcement**
   a. Next Meeting: May 16, 2016
XI. **Adjournment**

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require accommodations such as large print or sign language interpreter, are asked to call Elvira Seman at 322-6537/38 (voice) or 322-6449 (TTY) five days before the meeting.

/s/ **PAMELA C. SABLAN**
Chairperson

This advertisement is paid for with Federal funds made possible by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services.

Kuentai partners with BSI to bring WWII fallen soldiers home

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
frauleine_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A non-profit organization whose mission is to bring the remains of fallen soldiers home has partnered with the biggest developer on island.

Kuentai-USA and Best Sunshine International, Ltd. has established their partnership last week to work on some of BSI's properties in the northern part of the island to collect World War II remains.

In an interview with Kuentai chair Usan Kurata and secretary general Yukari Akatsuka, they said that it is a "great idea" and a "great opportunity" for them to partner with the said developer.

"We have a rich experience. We have been here for six years already. We opened up many burial sites so we can train then for the educational purpose they have to know the culture and history of the island," Yukari said.

FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON

Kuentai-USA chair Usan Kurata holds the dog tag of World War II American soldier Thomas Davis that the organization found on Saipan. They will soon deliver the dog tag to his family in Ohio.

Yukari said that since BSI has some properties up north, they will most likely come across the remains as well.

They added that with the partnership, they will be able to work alongside BSI's corporate social responsibility volunteers to help them with the tremendous work before them.

Kuentai said they are also thinking of bringing in volunteers from Japan as a form of cultural exchange to help with their dig.

Just recently, Kuentai was able to find a dog tag belonging to a World War II American soldier named Thomas Davis. His family was traced and this item belonging to him will soon be returned home.

Dog tags, unlike other soldiers' items, are considered a rare find in digging.

To date, Kuentai has found 800 Japanese and eight U.S. World War II soldiers from the Achugao area

However, there are 28,000 more missing Japanese and 400 Americans soldiers missing and buried somewhere around the islands.

They have also identified a number of mass burial graves as well as individual graves on the island.

"That's still a big number and not so easy," Usan said.

Last November, Kuentai was able to dig several remains from a burial site but had to stop with the project and rebury them.

Aside from Saipan, Kuentai also has projects in Tinian, Guam, and the Philippines.

For BSI chief services officer Tao Xing, the project is very "honorable" and that Kuentai's work has been "amazing."

"It is a very noble cause. The concept is to bring home the soldiers for the U.S and Japan," Xing said.

"We're very much interested and will be very much supporting their cause," he added.

March is CNMI Women's Month

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Women, young and old, packed the Office of the Governor's conference room in support of "CNMI Women's Month" this March 2016, as Gov. Ralph DLG, on his first day back at office from a trip in U.S. Capitol, signed the proclamation with Lt. Gov. Victor Hocog during proclamation signing event yesterday morning.

Torres and Hocog also proclaimed March 8 as the International Women's Day in the CNMI, a day to celebrate the achievements of women while calling for greater equality.

This year's theme for International's Women Day for 2016 is "Pledge For Parity."

The special dates to acknowledge woman's rights and international peace follows a United States proclamation in 1977 calling on member states to proclaim a day for women.

The proclamation acknowledges women for their historic and unique role in the growth of the Commonwealth and for their role in providing the majority of the volunteer labor force.

CNMI's women have been particularly important in the establishment of early charitable, philanthropic, and cultural institutions in the NMI, the proclamation states.

The CNMI Women's Association will be hosting a series of events this month for reflect the accomplishments of women and honor their role in shaping the nation's history.

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Mazda3 Sedan or Hatchback total price is $19,995 less 20% down payment. Financed at 5.9% APR for 60 monthly payments of $308.50 or $142 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred price is $18,510.00.

Month-long celebration to mark CDA's 30th anniversary

The Commonwealth Development Authority will be kicking off its month-long 30th anniversary celebration this March.

CDA was established through Public Law 4-49 signed by former governor Pedro Tenorio on May 31, 1985 with its functions to be carried out by two divisions—the Development Banking Division and the Development Corporation Division.

However, CDA postponed celebrating due to the event that happened last year including Typhoon Soudelor.

A budget of $20,000 was approved for their anniversary project.

This will be the first time that CDA will hold a big celebration to mark their three decades of service.

To kick off, CDA will speak on the radio today to talk about their programs.

CDA will also hold open houses every Monday of this month.

They will also hold a stakeholders' meeting for each of the island starting on March 8 for Tinian at their Nothern Marianas College campus, followed by Saipan on March 10 at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center, and on Rota on March 16 at the NMC campus there.

CDA's business plan competition will have its participants present their entries on Nov. 18.

A profit mastery workshop will be held on Mar. 22 to 23, in partnership with the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

CDA will close its celebrations on March 30 and 31 with a logo ranking and a raffle draw. ***(Frauleine Villanueva-Dizon)***

EU will provide $4.6M for recovery and rehabilitation after Cyclone Winston

SUVA, Fiji —The European Union (EU) will provide an initial FJ$ 10 million (US$4.6 million) through the Pacific Community (SPC) to complement the Fijian Government's efforts in relief, recovery and rehabilitation following the devastation caused by Tropical Cyclone Winston.

The funds will immediately be made available from EU-SPC projects for communities and businesses in the most severely affected regions of Fiji.

"The FJ$10M is a direct, practical short-term response to the needs of Fijian citizens in the affected areas," says EU Ambassador for the Pacific Andrew Jacobs. "The EU and SPC have joined forces to identify other resources, whether it is through an existing joint programme or a new source that could be expedited and channeled towards rebuilding peoples' lives."

Pacific Community Director-General, Dr. Colin Tukuitonga said, "While the full impact of cyclone Winston on lives, livelihoods and the economy is yet to be determined, these funds will be directed towards addressing immediate needs identified by the Fiji government, to alleviate the pressure on some of the most affected communities."

The projects will assist rehabilitation efforts in the agricultural sector by increasing the supply of key export crops, such as fruits and vegetables. This will foster food security and also contribute to the livelihood of smallholders farmers in affected areas. Support will be targeted to the needs on all levels of the agriculture value chain, including farmers, agri-processing and export companies. In addition, projects will also fast-track resources towards the water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and rural electricity needs of affected citizens. ***(SPC)***

MAN

From Page 1

Tarkong did not indicate the injuries of the fatality.

Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services information officer Derek Gersonde earlier stated that when DFEMS emergency medical technicians responded to the scene, the 29-year-old man, who was the passenger, was out of the car and was unconscious with a 6-inch laceration to the back of head.

The driver, a 26-year-old Asian male, complained of pain all over his body.

The other passenger, a 23-year-old Asian female, was unconscious and was sitting in the back of the car.

Tarkong revealed that preliminary investigation showed that alcohol and speed were factors in the crash.

Tarkong said that, on Saturday at 10:22pm, police officers responded to a car accident on Beach Road, San Jose just north of Borja Funeral Home.

Tarkong said a white 2006 Hyundai Azera four-door sedan was traveling north on Beach Road when it ran off the roadway, struck a pine tree, and slammed into a power pole.

Tarkong said first responders observed that the three victims were unconscious.

DFEMS ambulance transported the victims to the Commonwealth Health Center's emergency room.

The car had extensive damage.

On Sunday's fatal crash near the Northern Marianas College in Finasisu, Tarkong said yesterday that DPS is conducting further investigation into the factor of the accident.

CHC's Dr. Florence Shenker pronounced the driver, 28-year-old Carlynn Mae Camacho, dead at 4:33am.

Tarkong said that, on Sunday at 3:54am, police responded to an auto accident that happened on Tun Apa Road near the NMC Gym in Finasisu.

Tarkong said a red 1990 Toyota pickup truck was traveling south when it ran off the road and struck a tree, causing extensive damage to the vehicle.

Tarkong said the driver was found unresponsive and transported by DFEMS ambulance to CHC.

Last Jan. 7, Romeo Sumilang, 53, a passenger of a pick-up truck, was tossed into the air and landed on the pavement during an accident involving two other cars near Sugar King Park in Garapan. The truck's driver and the other passenger were injured.

Sumilang died due to severe head injuries at CHC last Jan. 10.

The driver of a car, Yi Wang, 53, a Chinese music teacher, was arrested, but the Office of the Attorney General later moved to dismiss the case without prejudice. The court granted the motion. Dismissal without prejudice means the OAG can re-file the case.

CNMI

From Page 1

ritories, providing revised estimates of GDP, GDP by industry, and compensation by industry extending back to 2002.

The CNMI's 3-percent GDP increase is the larger increase compared to other insular areas. The GDPs of Guam grew by 1 percent, American Samoa by 1.6 percent, and Virgin Islands decreased by 0.6 percent for 2014.

The bureau said the estimates show that real GDP—GDP adjusted to remove price changes—increased 3 percent in 2014. For comparison, the bureau pointed to the real GDP of the U.S., excluding territories, which increased by 2.4 percent.

The bureau said the CNMI economy reflected increases in private fixed investment, in consumer spending, and in exports of services.

These increases were partially offset by an increase in imports of goods and services, which is a subtraction item in the calculation of GDP, the bureau said.

"Private fixed investment was the largest contributor to economic growth in 2014, increasing over 50 percent. This increase reflected growth in business purchases of equipment and in private sector construction activity," the bureau said.

A "widespread growth" in household purchases of goods and services and a continued increase in purchase of motor vehicles reflected a consumer spending increase of 9.1 percent.

Exports of services—which consisted mostly of spending by tourists—increased by 2.6 percent.

"The growth in tourism spending reflected an increase in vistor arrivals to the CNMI," the bureau said.

BEA Director Brien Moyer, BEA staff Aya Hamano, Central Statistics acting director Tom Torres, and CSD Staff Justin H. Andrew met with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, Lt. Gov. Victor Hocog, and Commerce Secretary Mark Rabauliman to brief them on the GDP report.

"The local data we provided BEA was compiled to reflect that the increases were attributed to private fixed investments from major renovation and construction activities, consumer spending, and tourism spending as major contributors. For historical comparison, 2009 saw the lowest GDP, as adjusted, for the CNMI at -17.5 percent. The GDP is an important tool to measure the direction and most importantly, to reflect the level of growth activities in our economy. For three consecutive years, the report reflects a steady and gradual growth and that's what we want to see continue," Torres said in a statement.

"It will be interesting to see the GDP for 2015 when we factor in the costs for the damaged undersea cable and the devastation from Typhoon Soudelor in light of the continued growth in construction, tourism, and consumer spending activities. We are working on getting that data together for the 2016 GDP report. In the meantime, we expect a follow up report, on an accelerated basis, to be released this summer," said Rabauliman in a statement.

The CNMI government reported total revenue collections of $125.15 million in fiscal year 2015—short by about $9.18 million compared to the projected revenue for the fiscal year, according to an earlier report from the Office of the Governor.

The government's total expenditure of $143.43 million exceeded revenues appropriated in last year's Budget Act

The net effect of revenue and expenditures resulted in a deficit of $9.1 million for the fiscal year and was largely blamed on Typhoon Soudelor and the network outage last July.

Moving forward

The bureau said an agreement between them and the Office of Insular Affairs of the Dept. of Interior would extend and improve the estimates of GDP moving forward.

"The information provided by the CNMI government will continue to be critical to the successful production of these estimates," the bureau said.

"BEA currently plans to release GDP estimates for 2015 in the summer of 2015. GDP by industry and compensation by industry estimates for 2014 will also be released at the same time," it added.

The complete report by BEA on the CNMI GDP can be found at www.bea.gov or see http://www.bea.gov/news-releases/general/terr/2016/CNMIGDP_022816.pdf

LOCAL

From Page 1

Mariana Islands, U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico if elected president.

"The TCAC will be integrated into my Presidential Transition Team, and be tasked with performing a holistic review of all federal regulations affecting the Territories and Commonwealth," Carson said in a recent column.

Last January, Guam's Republican Party officially endorsed U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz.

Typically, the three Pacific territories—Guam, American Samoa, and the Northern Mariana Islands—and Hawaii back the same candidate for the GOP nomination, according to Cruz strategic consultant Dennis Lennox in an earlier email.

CUC

From Page 2

tion to direct management and the legal counsel to "invite Mobil back to the negotiation table to potentially re-negotiate a potential change order on the $371-million contract that was signed in March 2014."

"To see if we can negotiate the length of the contract, the amount of the contract possibly reduction to compensate or incorporate anywhere from $10 million to $30 million to purchase generators for the power plant so that it is included within the $371 million," San Nicolas said.

This was opposed by Sablan.

"We're mixing generators and oil here. It just doesn't make sense to go back to Mobil to ask them to consider a reduction or something. I don't know what it is that vice chair San Nicolas is proposing but I'm telling you it's convoluted. Secondly, what are we going to do with those bidders then that participated in the RFP and providing us resource for the Integrated Resource Plan? Are we going to tell them now to go fly a kite?" Sablan said.

"That is completely irresponsible. I must say that for the record," he added.

Sablan noted that the bidders, that took part in their requests for proposals in November 2014, would have to be addressed.

However, Sirok commented that the RFP that was published under the IRP process "has already went through the process."

To which Sablan responded, "Why are we discussing all these things in executive session then? The reason being that all those bids are still active, right Jim?"

Sirok did not provide an answer to this, but responded, "Well I think you have a good discussion but I think it's, uh, we are in the middle of a discussion on the motion on a different subject and so let's finish with this particular motion on Mobil."

The majority of the board then proceeded to vote yes on San Nicolas' motion.

'Doesn't seem important'

After the motion passed, Sablan commented to his colleagues, enumerating the many things that they need to address such as the amount of repairs that the power generation side has been needing and CUC's low reserve capacity.

"There's been a lot of things that I've been saying about what needs to be addressed in the utility and apparently it doesn't seem to sink in," Sablan said.

"These doesn't seem to be important to you folks," he added.

The comment made San Nicolas interrupt Sablan, saying that he is "out of line."

Taitano also commented on Sablan, starting with "with all due respect," but then proceeded to speak in Chamorro.

Roberto stopped what potentially could be a heated argument.

Asked what would happen to the IRP, Roberto said the matter is "tabled."

"It's just we haven't decided yet. We need to address other issues first. We don't even know what's there other than what they presented to us," Roberto said.

DENNIS B. CHAN
Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Victor Hocog pose for a photo with cancer awareness advocates and survivors after proclaiming March National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month.

March is Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

To raise awareness for third most commonly diagnosed cancer and the second most common cause of cancer deaths for men and women in the nation, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Victor Hocog have declared March 2016 as National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month yesterday.

Cancer survivor Caesar Dumatol called on families who have lost loved ones to this disease and all committed to advance the fight against cancer through research, advocacy, and quality care.

"Together, we can build a future free from cancer in all its form," Dumatol said, reading from the proclamation during a signing event yesterday.

Dumatol later told reporters that this cancer "should be taken seriously."

"Survival is not high, if discovered late," he said, adding that he was lucky to be a survivor after discovering his cancer at "Stage 3."

Torres, for his part, said awareness is critical. "No one wants to go to the hospital. It's perhaps the last place you want to go" but if "we detect it earlier, the better it is," he said, encouraging that people take test and prevention methods.

The proclamation urges all men and women in the CNMI to discuss a preventative and screening program with their health care provider and join in the activities to raise awareness and prevention of colorectal cancer this month.

The survival rate of individuals who have colorectal cancer diagnosed at an early stage is 90 percent. This is only 10 percent when diagnosed after it has spread to other organs.

USCG suspend active search for missing swimmer near Queen's Bath, Kauai

HONOLULU—The U.S. Coast Guard and Kauai Fire Department suspended the search Sunday for missing 28-year-old Mykola Grebeniuk who was swept out to sea Thursday near Queen's Bath, in Princeville, Kauai.

"Suspending an active search and rescue case without definitive resolution is one of the most difficult decisions to make," said Capt. Shannon Gilreath, commander, Coast Guard Sector Honolulu. "We saturated the area in an attempt to locate Mr. Grebeniuk, but pending further developments, we have decided to suspend the active search. Our prayers go out to his loved ones."

On-scene assets searched a combined 73 hours, approximately 6,206 square miles and deployed two self-locating datum marker buoys.

Involved in the search were an HC-130 Hercules airplane crew and MH-65 Dolphin helicopter crew from Air Station Barbers Point as well as the crews of USCGC Galveston Island and USCGC Kittiwake.

Kauai Fire Department also searched with helicopter and jet ski crews.

Watchstanders at Sector Honolulu received a relayed call at 11:30am, Thursday, from the Kauai Fire Department stating a 23-year-old male had been swept off the rocks at Queen's Bath. The watchstanders immediately directed the launch of the Dolphin helicopter and Hercules aircrews and issued an Urgent Marine Information Broadcast requesting the assistance of any mariners in the area. ***(PR)***

Red Cross Walkathon set for April 30

The American Red Cross is proud to announce its 30th Annual Red Cross Walkathon is scheduled for April 30.

The 30th anniversary event will be extra exciting with many special activities including a carnival and health fair, drinks, food, and a T-shirt for all participants. There will be prizes for various categories including student with the most pledges as well as awards and recognition for top schools. The 10K and 5K event will be held on all three islands starting at 6am.

Please mark your calendar, support the Red Cross and plan on a morning of exercise and family fun!

For more information about participating or volunteering, please contact the Red Cross at 234-3459. ***(PR)***

Saipan Tribune Make it your DAILY habit.

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Must be a high school graduate with at least two to five years experience as an Auto Body Repairer. Knowledgeable on repairing and refinishing automotive vehicle bodies and straightening vehicle frames.

(02) Automobile Electrician: $6.10 - $6.75/hour
A minimum of five years work related experience. Able to diagnose and undertake electrical repairs on a wide variety of vehicles and heavy equipment. Must be knowledgeable on electric motor, alternator, starter, and motor rewinding.

(40) Carpenters: $6.10 - $7.50/hour
Must be a high school graduate with a minimum of five years experience as a Carpenter. Knowledgeable on constructing, erecting, installing, and/or repairing structures and fixtures made of wood including: concrete forms, building frameworks, partitions, joists, studding, rafters, wooden stairways, windows, door frames, and hardwood floors.

(4) Civil Engineering Technician: $6.10 - $8.25/hour
College graduate with a minimum of two years experience as a Civil Engineering Technician. Able to apply Theory and Principles of Civil Engineering in planning, designing, and overseeing construction, structure maintenance and facilities under the directions of engineering staff or physical scientist.

(01) Construction Manager: $3,125.00
Must be a college graduate or with a minimum of five year's experience as a Construction Manager, including managers in specialized construction fields, such as, carpentry or plumbing. Knowledgeable on planning, directing, and coordinating activities concerning construction and maintenance of structures, facilities, and systems with subordinate supervisory personnel. Able to participate in the conceptual development of a construction projects and oversee its organizations such as, scheduling, budgeting, and implementation.

(01) Diesel Fuel Injection Pump Technician: $6.10 - $7.25/hour
High School Graduate with a minimum of five years work related experience. Must be knowledgeable on repairing diesel fuel injector components, including pumps, injectors and turbochargers. Able to diagnose, service and maintain fuel injection systems.

(01) Diesel Mechanic: $6.10/hour
Must be a high school graduate with at least five years work-related experience.

(17) Electrician: $6.10 - $7.15/hour
Must be a high school graduate with a minimum of two years experience as an Electrician. Knowledgeable on installing, maintaining and repairing electrical wirings, equipment and other fixtures. Able to install or service street lights, intercom systems, and electrical control systems.

(2) Electrical Engineering Technician: $6.10 - $6.50/hour
College graduate with a minimum of two years experience as a Electrical Engineering Technician. Able to apply Theory and Principles of Electrical Engineering in planning, designing, and overseeing construction, structure maintenance and facilities under the directions of engineering staff or physical scientist.

(3) General Maintenance: $6.10 - $6.35/hour
High school graduate with at least five years experience as a General Maintenance. Able to install various equipment.

(15) Heavy Equipment Mechanic: $6.10 - $7.50/hour
High school graduate with a minimum of five years experience as a Heavy Equipment Mechanic. Knowledgeable on diagnosing, adjusting, repairing, and overhauling automobiles, cranes, bulldozers, graders, excavators, trucks, conveyors and other heavy equipment typically used in construction.

(30) Heavy Equipment Operator: $6.10 - $7.15/hour
High school graduate with at least two years experience as a Heavy Equipment Operator. Must be knowledgeable on operating several types of power construction equipment such as, motor graders, bulldozers, trenching machines, scrapers, compressors, pumps, derricks, shovel tractors and front-end loaders to excavate, move and grade earth, erect structures, pour concretes and etc.

(02) Machinist: $6.10/hour
A high school graduate with at least five years experience as a Machinist.

(40) Mason: $6.10 - $7.00/hour
High school graduate with a minimum of three years experience as a Mason. Knowledgeable on smoothing and finishing poured concretes such as, floors, walks, sidewalks, roads and curbs using variety of hand and power tools. Able to align forms for sidewalks, curbs, gutters, patch voids and use various saws to cut expansion joints.

(03) Mechanical Engineering Technician: $6.10 - $6.50/hour
College graduate with a minimum of two years experience as a Mechanical Engineering Technician. Able to apply Theory and Principles of Mechanical Engineering in planning, designing and overseeing construction, structure maintenance and other facilities under the direction of engineering staff or physical scientist.

(10) Painter: $6.10 - $6.55/hour
A high school graduate with a minimum of five years experience as a Painter. Knowledgeable on operating and tending to various painting machines. Able to paint transportation equipment surfaces like automobiles, buses, trucks, trains, boats, airplanes and etc.

(20) Plumber: $6.10 - $7.50/hour
A high school graduate with a minimum of five years experience as a Plumber. With knowledge to install, assemble, alter and repair pipelines that carry water, steam, air, or other liquids and gasses. Able to install heating and cooling equipment and mechanical control system.

(01) Q.C. Asphalt Paving Technician: $6.10 - $6.50/hour
A high school graduate with a minimum of two years work-related experience.

(02) Rigger: $6.10 /hour
A high school graduate with a minimum of two years work-related experience.

(01) Sheet Metal Worker: $6.10 - $6.75/hour
A high school graduate with a minimum of two years experience as a Sheet Metal Worker. Must be knowledgeable on installing pre-fabricated sheet metal ducts used for heating, air-conditioning equipment and etc.

(8) Steel Worker: $6.10 - $7.25/hour
A high school graduate with a minimum of five years experience as a Steel Worker. Knowledgeable on rising, placing, and uniting iron and steel girders, R-columns and other structural members to form a complete structures or structural frameworks. Able to erect metal storage tanks and assemble pre-fabricated metal buildings. Position and secure steel bars or mesh in concrete forms in order to reinforce concrete structures.

(02) Tower Crane Operator: $6.10 - $6.35/hour
A high school graduate with a minimum of two years work-related experience. Must be able to comply with all safety regulations and work with minimal supervision.

(2) Truck Driver: $6.10 - $7.10/hour
A high school graduate with at least two to five years experience as a Truck Driver. Able to drive a tractor, trailer and truck with a capacity of at least 26,000 GVW for various construction material transportation.

(16) Welder: $6.10 - $7.00/hour
Must be a high school graduate with a minimum of two years experience as a welder. Knowledgeable on using hand-welding, flame cutting, hand soldering, and other brazing equipment to weld or join metal components or to fill holes, indentations, or seams of fabricated metal products.

Interested applicants may apply at GPPC, INC. office located at As Perdido, Saipan, CNMI.
A copy of police clearance must be attached to the application. Incomplete application will NOT be accepted.
Skills, testing maybe required. Salaries will commensurate to experience and qualifications.
Closing date will be on March 04, 2016.
GPPC, INC is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Rota police serve summons on ex-Rota mayor, co-defendants

Rota police have served the penal summons on former Rota mayor Melchor A. Mendiola and three other former Rota municipal employees in connection with corruption charges filed against them.

A Rota police detective served the penal summons on Mendiola and co-defendants Tina Atalig, Alfred Apatang, and Bernard Apatang on Rota on Thursday night.

Police have yet to serve the penal summons on defendant Stacey Atalig.

Superior Court clerk of court Patrick V. Diaz issued the penal summons last Jan. 12 for Mendiola and the four co-defendants to appear for the arraignment at Rota courtroom this Friday, March 4, at 10:30am, with respect to the information.

Mendiola

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho will preside over the arraignment.

The information charged Mendiola and co-defendants each with possession or removal of government property offense.

The items alleged to have taken in this case care are four laptops with values ranging from $975 to $2,049, as well as nine picnic tables.

According to the information, Mendiola allegedly unlawfully took nine picnic tables belonging to the Rota Mayor's Office between September 2014 and Feb. 26, 2015 on Rota.

Tina Atalig allegedly unlawfully took one Toshiba Satellite laptop belonging to the Rota Mayor's Office between September 2014 and Feb. 26, 2015 on Rota. She is the former secretary of Mendiola.

Alfred Apatang allegedly unlawfully took one Toshiba Satellite laptop owned by the Rota Mayor's Office between September 2014 and Feb. 27, 2015 on Rota. He is the former field supervisor of Mendiola.

Bernard Apatang allegedly unlawfully took one Toshiba Satellite laptop owned by Rota Finance Office between September 2014 and Feb. 27, 2015 on Rota.

Stacey Atalig allegedly unlawfully took one Toshiba Tecra laptop belonging to Rota Office of Finance between September 2014 and March 2015 on Rota. She is a former Rota Finance resident director.

Office of Public Auditor Task Force officer JB K. Cepeda stated in his report that they initiated the investigation after receiving a letter from Rota Mayor Efrain M. Atalig, requesting assistance to investigate into Mendiola's questionable transactions.

Cepeda said Atalig apparently discovered the government properties such as computer laptops, folding tables, typewriter, and other items were unaccounted for or missing. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

APEX BUILDERS, INC.
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(02) Auto Body Repairer: $6.10 - $6.50/hour
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(2) General Maintenance: $6.10 - $6.35/hour
High school graduate with at least five years experience as a General Maintenance. Able to install various equipment.

(6) Heavy Equipment Mechanic: $6.10 - $7.50/hour
High school graduate with a minimum of five years experience as a Heavy Equipment Mechanic. Knowledgeable on diagnosing, adjusting, repairing, and overhauling automobiles, cranes, bulldozers, graders, excavators, trucks, conveyors and other heavy equipment typically used in construction.

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High school graduate with at least two years experience as a Heavy Equipment Operator. Must be knowledgeable on operating several types of power construction equipment such as, motor graders, bulldozers, trenching machines, scrapers, compressors, pumps, derricks, shovel tractors and front-end loaders to excavate, move and grade earth, erect structures, pour concretes and etc.

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Interested applicants may apply at APEX Builders, Inc. office located at GPPC Inc. building, As Perdido, Saipan, CNMI. A copy of police clearance must be attached to the application. Incomplete application will NOT be accepted. Skills, testing maybe required. Salaries will commensurate to experience and qualifications. Closing date will be on March 04, 2016.
APEX BUILDERS, INC. is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Man allegedly beats up girlfriend at knifepoint

A 39-year-old man was arrested yesterday morning for allegedly beating up his girlfriend at knifepoint at his residence in San Vicente last week.

Anthony Joseph Sakisat Camacho was arrested for assault with a dangerous weapon, assault and battery, assault, and disturbing the peace.

At a hearing yesterday, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho imposed a $10,000 cash bail and appointed assistant public defender Cindy Nesbit as counsel for the defendant. Assistant attorney general Barbara Cepeda appeared for the government.

Preliminary hearing will be on March 7 at 9am.

Police Detective Peter A. Aldan stated in his report that the alleged victim filed the complaint against defendant Camacho last Wednesday.

Aldan said according to the victim, she went to Camacho's residence on board a taxicab in the evening last Feb. 21.

Camacho allegedly ran out of the house as she was walking back to the taxi, then grabbed her hair and dragged her into the house.

Inside the house, the defendant allegedly punched her head while accusing her of having an affair.

The victim said that last Wednesday afternoon Camacho accused her again of having an affair and repeatedly punched her face and head and kicked her back.

She said she could not escape because during the beating, the defendant was pointing the tip of a knife at her stomach.

That night, she escaped when Camacho walked into Lucky De Mart in Dandan, leaving her inside the car. She drove the car and called a police officer. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Ex-firefighter arrested for sexual abuse of a minor girl

A former firefighter was arrested for allegedly sexually abusing a minor girl who was sleeping at a residence in Navy Hill on Saturday.

Jergerson Techur Koshiba, 42, was arrested on Saturday night for sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree and disturbing the peace.

At a hearing yesterday, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho imposed a $50,250 cash bail and appointed assistant public defender Matthew Meyer as counsel for Koshiba. Assistant attorney general Barbara Cepeda appeared for the government.

Preliminary hearing will be on March 8 at 1:30pm.

Police Detective Vincent Igisaiar stated in his report that preliminary investigation showed that the girl was sleeping on the living room couch when Koshiba allegedly touched her private parts.

The girl was awakened and ran for fear to the bedroom, where her mother was sleeping. The girl told the mother what happened.

The mother reported the incident to the police.

Police said there was a party at the house, where a drinking session started Friday at 6pm and ended Saturday at 12am. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

CDA approves PSS-USDA $3M loan agreement

'Department heads must foster good working environment'

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres reiterated that his administration encourages all department and agency heads to keep a positive working environment, in connection with the issue involving Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Laura Ogumoro and Office of the Aging director Walter Manglona.

Ogumoro, almost two weeks ago, gave a memorandum of "proposed termination" to Manglona. *Saipan Tribune* tried to get an interview with Ogumoro to get her side but her office has not yet responded at press time.

Torres is fully aware of the current issue between Ogumoro and Manglona with the staff of the Governor's Office continuously giving him information and other updates.

The Torres administration, in an email sent to *Saipan Tribune*, said individuals chosen to head departments must "always maintain proper decorum when managing their departments or agencies, which includes fostering a healthy working environment that encourages efficiency."

The administration added that heads of the departments or agencies must also ensure that services from their respective divisions are carried out for the benefit of the community. "If an individual does not adhere to these criteria, appropriate action if deemed necessary, will be made."

The Torres administration said they used a comprehensive process in selecting and evaluating department and agency heads. "Gov. Torres and his administration have always maintained a comprehensive process when evaluating all heads of departments and agencies."

"All secretaries of departments and directors of agencies are chosen based on the knowledge, skills, and best judgment in their area of expertise."

Torres has instructed his staff to look into the Ogumoro-Manglona issue. His staff made their own investigation and have compiled a review, which will be presented when Torres returns on Saipan after a weeklong trip to Washington, D.C. to attend the meetings of the National Governors Association and the 35th U.S. Coral Reef Task Force.

The Governor's Office will also continue to inform the public of any changes in a department or agency.

"Any official notices of cabinet appointments, which includes the acceptance of any courtesy resignation, has been and will continue to be made known to the community. As such, particularly regarding this matter, official notices will continue to be provided to the public in due time." ***(Jon Perez)***

The Commonwealth Development Authority passed a "ceremonial approval" on a loan that will be entered in by the Public School System with the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

In January, PSS was authorized to enter into a guaranteed loan through a law passed by Legislature and signed by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres the amount of up to $5 million from the federal agency.

The issue comes to CDA because it needs the agency's approval as the authorized entity to transact with USDA-Rural Development.

During the discussion, the CDA board clarified if the board would have liabilities on the loan if they approved it.

Director Ignacio Kiyoshi also raised the concern on PSS' ability to pay.

"Already we have experienced a pattern with PSS and NMHC," Kiyoshi said. "I know for a fact PSS has been approved for certain millions by the Department of Interior for ABC project."

"I'm in favor of PSS, I have no problems with that. But my concern here is the ability of that agency to pay back that copious amount of money," he added.

According to CDA management, there will be no liability for CDA should PSS fail to pay its obligations.

The board passed the motion to "approve the PSS-USDA Rural Development program loan with the exceptions that were noted that the cap is $3 million and that it would exonerate CDA from any defaults or guarantee."

"It's a ceremonial approval because we don't have any liability on that," CDA board chair Ignacio Perez said.

With this, PSS will be allowed to have $3-million loan agreement with USDA-RD which will be a 10-year term and with an interest of 3.75 percent.

PSS said the money will be used to construct additional 10 classrooms that are needed as school population rise.

Two new kindergarten classrooms will be built in Garapan, Koblerville, and Oleai elementary schools as well as another two classrooms for Dandan Middle School.

Parking lots for Tinian Elementary School, Sinapalo Elementary School on Rota, and the PSS head start center in Garapan will also be paved. ***(Frauleine Villanueva-Dizon)***

Jose Castro accepted to Naval Academy Summer Seminar

Mt. Carmel School junior Jose Castro gained admission to the summer U.S Naval Academy Seminar, an intense six-day experience for high school students to experience life as a midshipman. The 17-year-old will join over 2,000 other students in the program for group sessions in Annapolis, Maryland, which accepts 7 percent of applicants.

Castro

According to the program's website, the summer seminar teaches high-achieving participants about life at the Naval Academy, where academics, athletics, and professional training play equally important roles in developing the nation's leaders.

Castro said he first learned about the academy from his cousin Johnathan Jake Castro Tenorio, a graduate of the Naval Academy. Castro's parents are Rodrigo and Fang Pan Castro.

"He was my inspiration. I applied to the Summer Seminar because gaining knowledge at the program will help me prepare myself for what the Naval Academy has to offer," he added. "I need all the experience I can get." He attributed his success to his peers and mentors at MCS as well.

While he hopes to succeed in the program, Castro, a student athlete and member of the triumphant mock trial team, explained that he also wants to represent his family and share Saipan's unique island culture.

He told *Saipan Tribune* that he intends to apply to the Naval Academy after high school, because it would "give me a head start [academically] and the opportunity to learn from those at the academy."

Ultimately, Castro hopes to become a Naval Officer, serve his country, and return to the CNMI to help the community. ***(Thomas A. Manglona II)***

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Saipan
to Honolulu
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to West Coast
Starting as low as
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Starting as low as
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Fares INCLUDE carrier-imposed fees and taxes of approximately $399. Fares, taxes and carrier-imposed fees are subject to change without notice. Taxes are subject to currency adjustments and applicable taxes, passenger facility charges, security fees. Tickets must be purchased 3 days after reservations are made or 7 days prior to departure, whichever is earlier, but no later than March 8, 2016. Travel must originate in Saipan and travel commencement date must be between March 2 and May 31, 2016 or between September 16 and December 14, 2016. Valid for roundtrip travel between Saipan and the U.S. (West Coast/East Coast/Honolulu). Valid on UA flights UA200 and UA201 only. Fares subject to availability of Economy L class on United aircraft only. Seats are capacity controlled and may not be available on all flights and/or dates. Minimum stay of 5 days and maximum stay of 30 days after departure from fare origin. Stopovers: Not permitted. Other restrictions: Open return not permitted. All segments must be confirmed at time of ticketing. No waitlist allowed. Other discounts and travel certificates are not applicable. MileagePlus® upgrades and other marketing programs not permitted. Tickets are non-refundable (except within the first 24 hours after purchase through united.com, United City Ticket Office, United Airport Ticket Office or through United reservations). Penalties: Changes to itinerary - may be made prior to scheduled flights at an administrative service fee of $300. However, any change must meet the condition of the new fare purchased. Changes requested after departure of originally scheduled flight are not permitted. Unused tickets not changed prior to originally scheduled flights have no value and cannot be exchanged. Other restrictions may apply and additional bag fees apply. Endorsement: The original ticket must be annotated - nonref / apex - in endorsement box or re-issued ticket must be annotated - non-ref in endorsement box. Service fee applies for ticket issuance through reservations and United City Ticket Office. ©2016 United Airlines, Inc. All rights reserved.

House honors former lawmaker Gregorio B. Sablan

Rep. Angel Demapan (R-Saipan) will introduce a House commemorative resolution to honor the late Gregorio Bermudes Sablan, a former two-term House representative from 1985 to 1990.

Sablan also served as director of the Legislative Bureau from 1992 until 1995, when he retired from government service, according to the resolution. He had also been administrative officer and staff director in the House prior to becoming a lawmaker.

"It would be extremely difficult to find a person with similar compassion and devotion, like that of the Honorable Gregorio Bermudes Sablan," the resolution states.

"[He] was a man who dedicated his life to family and the residents of this great Commonwealth," it adds.

Sablan began his government service as a temporary apprentice for the Department of Public Works of the U.S. Naval administration in 1952, continuing his service as an employee for the Far East Foundation under the Naval administration until 1953.

Upon graduating high school, Sablan become a communications operator under the Naval administration and then the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

In 1969, Sablan was commended for an "outstanding performance in coordinating and arranging the medical evaluation of a three year old boy from the island of Rota 'in the highest tradition of communication service.'" ***(Dennis B. Chan)***

Fiesta Resort staff collect 50 lbs of trash

Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan volunteers cleaned their adopted 1-mile highway along Beach Road last Saturday.

Nine members of the Pacific Century Fellows inaugural class of 2014 and 38 employees of Fiesta Resort & Spa took to the streets of Garapan and collected 26 bags of trash and debris weighing approximately 150 lbs.

The Saturday cleanup marks the first cleanup day for Fiesta Resort & Spa this year. The hotel adopted the 1-mile stretch along Beach Road from the Fire Department to Angaha Road in 2013 as part of its commitment to help keep the CNMI clean and beautiful. The cleanups are held on a monthly basis.

» 2014 PCF class also joined cleanup on adopted 1-mile highway

"We wish to extend our appreciation to members of the inaugural class of 2014 Pacific Century Fellows and Fiesta volunteers for being a part of the movement to help 'Beautify CNMI,'" said Fiesta general manager Abner Acosta, also a PCF 2014 alumnus.

The Pacific Century Fellows partnered with Project Ayudu and held a 5K "Back On Our Feet" walk last Oct. 3, 2015 to raise funds to rebuild and restore homes damaged or destroyed by Typhoon Soudelor. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A total of 38 employees of Fiesta Resort & Spa and nine members of the Pacific Century Fellows inaugural class of 2014 conducted a cleanup of the hotel's adopted 1-mile highway along Beach Road last Saturday.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Small craft advisory cancelled

The small craft advisory has now been cancelled, according to the CNMI Emergency Operations Center.

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center, regional buoys indicate combined seas have decreased to between 6 and 8 feet. Surface observations and satellite-derived winds indicate winds have subsided below advisory levels across Marianas waters.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, however, is still advising the general public and inexperienced mariners to exercise caution, as the seas will remain just below hazardous levels for a few days. ***(PR)***

Navy to conduct training at Warning Area 517

ASAN, Guam—The Navy will conduct training at Warning Area 517 from March 2 to 6, 12am-11:59pm.

The general public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear of the area during the dates and times indicated.

W-517 is activated south of latitude 12° 40' 00"N. All vessels are advised to remain clear of W-517 south of latitude 12° 40' 00"N. Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank are open for public use. W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprising of 14,000 nautical square miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. W-517 supports surface and aerial gunnery, missiles, and laser exercises.

For more information, contact the Joint Region Marianas Public Affairs Office at (671) 349-4055/3209. ***(PR)***

'14LS' jury selection on March 14 cancelled

This is to inform all prospective jurors on panel "14LS" that the jury selection scheduled for Monday, March 14, 2016, at 8:30am in courtroom 223A is hereby cancelled until further notice. For further information, please contact Clerk of Court Patrick Diaz at Superior Court at 236-9766. ***(PR)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

March 1, 2000

Gov't moves to entice businesses to hire local workers

The CNMI government is laying the ground for a possible partnership with members of the business community through an incentive package, in fresh efforts to encourage increased participation of local workers in the private sector. A private sector employment incentive program is now being prepared by the House of Representatives, under which the government will share with the businesses the wages and salaries of local worker trainees in the school-to-employment program. The school-to-work employment program hopes to lure CNMI college and technical or vocational graduates into private sector jobs, thereby, reducing the Commonwealth's heavy dependence on foreign manpower. Businesses can only participate after obtaining a certificate of good standing from the CNMI Registrar of Corporations and the Department of Finance.

Regulatory body to oversee utility service providers proposed

A new Senate measure will seek the creation of a regulatory body to oversee operations of utility service providers in the CNMI in an effort to protect consumers who end up paying high rates in the absence of such control. Sen. Ramon S. Guerrero filed Senate Bill 12-54 yesterday to pave for a fresh discussion on the issue after similar legislation failed to pass through both houses during the previous Legislature due to major differences among lawmakers. He said the lack of government regulation of utility service rate setting is "not in the best interests" of the local consumers as he noted that such function has been under the control of the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation. Setting of rates, changes of rates for utility services should be subject to review and possible revision by an independent, regulatory body in the executive branch, according to the former CUC executive director.

March 1, 2001

DPS beefs up rescue efforts

Members of a Department of Public Safety specialized search and rescue unit risked the extra gusty weather yesterday when they proceeded to descend from a high-rise cliff as part of a regular team exercise. Amid the fresh air and panoramic scenery, the perilous exercise was more than just an exhilarating experience for fireman Jess Mesa, as he stood atop the Suicide Cliff's towering peak. With public safety foremost in their minds, rescue officers rappelled down the mountainside in deliberate and careful movements, to survey the bottom of the area and ensure its rescue-readiness. The DPS team has conducted several onsite training exercises particularly on critical locations around the island.

Tinian Dynasty Says Charter pact unlikely until airport project completion

Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino is not very optimistic about being able to strike a deal with any carrier this time, pending the completion of the multi-million dollar airport improvement project on the island. Hotel General Manager Tom Liu said Tinian Dynasty is not likely to cough up additional money to intensify its off-island promotions, especially when the company is hardly able to breakeven due to low guest haul and in the absence of better airport facilities. Unless the West Tinian International Airport Improvement Project is completed, hotel operators will rely on the promotional activities of the Marianas Visitors Authority to lure more tourists.

March 1, 2005

TSA bans lighters at airports, planes

The Transportation Security Administration has added lighters to the list of items banned beyond airport checkpoints. The new policy, which prohibits all kinds of lighters from sterile areas of airports and onboard aircraft, will be fully enforced beginning April 14, 2005. In a news statement issued Monday, TSA said the new rule was adopted in compliance with a provision in the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004, which was signed into law on Dec. 17, 2004 and requires that "butane" lighters be added to TSA's list of prohibited items. "TSA is moving to implement this provision passed by Congress," said Rear Adm. David M. Stone, assistant Homeland Security secretary for TSA.

NMI overture met with 'wait-and-see' stance

None of the four airlines that Gov. Juan N. Babauta and his delegation visited in Japan last week made a commitment to provide more seat capacity to Saipan, the Marianas Visitors Authority reported. MVA managing director Vicky I. Benavente said, however, that the airlines, as well as the travel companies that the delegation met with, were very receptive to the ideas presented by the CNMI group during the discussions. Commonwealth Ports Authority executive director Carlos Salas made a presentation on CPA's incentive program for airlines that start flight service from previously unserved markets, while Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands president Lynn Knight reported on the various renovation projects being undertaken by local hotels.

ESFDB holds annual school-level STEM Fair

For the fourth year, Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja played host to the annual school level STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) Science Fair last Feb. 23.

Fun with parachutes, homemade electric fan, how to cure toothache with Chamorro medicine, engineering with LEGO blocks and bricks, and other interesting projects were on display at the school cafeteria.

Students from kindergarten to eighth grade were given the opportunity to conduct scientific research in the areas of chemistry, environmental science, life science, physics, engineering, technology, and mathematics.

"Our students did an outstanding job on their STEM Fair projects. It is our hope that our students who participate in the STEM fair will develop a life-long passion and interest in these subjects that will inspire, encourage, and prepare them in the future," said administrator/principal Carmen H. Atalig.

Atalig says the fair was more than an opportunity for students to dig into creative and fun aspects of science, but that it was also a good way to explain and develop the scientific method, which was a new experience for one kindergarten student and the first graders.

"It helped reinforce the scientific method and for others it was the first time they've used it," Atalig said. "They conducted their experiments on their own and were writing the complete procedure. That was the main goal for our first year students."

"With the school level event seeing great success every year, I hope the students continue to improve," said school science coordinator Mary Rose Lucero.

"We congratulate all the students and winners, and look forward to working with them again next year that will help them become more aware, motivated, active and collaborative in their projects," added Lucero.

"Investing in science, investing in our youth, investing in their education, is going to be the greatest foundation to allow them to prosper and preserve and build a very promising future in their Luta community or CNMI as a whole," said board chair Edward C. Maratita Jr.

Maratita added, "that motivating and inspiring these students to think about how that research could also be used to solve key problems and questions for the benefit of their community."

During the fair, students had the opportunity to showcase and discuss their projects with three judges.

After the judging, the winners will represent the school and the Luta community at the upcoming CNMI PSS Island Wide Science Fair to be held on Saipan sometime in March of this year.

The students that will represent the school and Luta community are John Henry V. Tacud (2nd Grade), John Anthony Tobongbanua (3rd Grade), Éclair M. Ladao (4th Grade), Kaitlyn Balgoa (5th Grade), and Angelo Lucero (8th Grade).

The administration, faculty, staff, and students would like to express their appreciation to the parents, Orly Soria, Solly Takai-Nakamura, and Tita A. Hocog. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja STEM fair winners from left: Éclair Ladao, Kaitlyn Balgoa, Angelo Lucero, John Henry Tacud, and John Anthony Tobongbanua.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ESFDB STEM fair judges from left: Mary Rose Lucero (school STEM Fair coordinator), Tita A. Hocog, Orly Soria, and Solly Takai-Nakamura.

MVA launches Instagram contest #MVA40

In celebration of Marianas Visitors Authority's 40th anniversary, the visitor's bureau has launched an Instagram contest under the hashtag #MVA40 to promote tourism.

The contest, running March 1 through Dec. 31, 2016, features a different theme each month and will award a gift certificate or other prizes valued at $25 for the most "liked" photo on Instagram fitting the month's theme.

"We always say 'tourism is everybody's business,' so this year's celebration of the MVA's 40th anniversary is an opportunity for our community to win some great prizes demonstrating how they're engaged int he industry," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio. "We look forward to the public's participation in the contest."

No purchase is necessary. To enter the contest, access Instagram and post a photo using the hashtag #MVA40. Monthly themes will be:

- March –Post a picture of the Tagaman or XTERRA Saipan Championship
- April –Post a picture of the Saipan Marathon
- May –Post a picture of the Taste of the Marianas
- June –Post a picture at a popular tourist site
- July –Post a picture with a tourist
- August –Post a picture with Saipan-da
- September –Post a picture of the International Festival of Cultures
- October –Post a picture of local culture
- November –Post a picture of community
- December –Post a picture of the Christmas in the Marianas

Each photo must have the hashtag #MVA40. There is no entry limit for this Contest; however, only one (1) Instagram account per person may be used to enter this Contest. For a complete list of rules, visit www.mymarianas.com. The MVA's Instagram account is @maraianasvisitors. ***(PR)***

Veterans invited to meeting today

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang and the Northern Marianas Humanities Council are inviting CNMI veterans to a meeting today, March 1, 9:30am at the Mayor's Office located in Ladera Center Building, Chalan Laulau.

The purpose of the meeting is to provide information about an upcoming Humanities Council event called a "Fireside Chat," that will allow younger veterans to meet and share experiences with older veterans from World War II and Korea and Vietnam conflicts in an enjoyable and informal setting.

The Fireside Chat will be held on the evening of Sunday, March 13, 2016, at the American Memorial Park Beachside Pavilion.

In addition to sharing experiences, participating veterans will be provided with an overview of services and benefits to which they are entitled.

Veterans will also be invited to participate in a second, related event that will allow veterans to talk about their individual experiences through stories and photos. The selected stories and photos will be displayed in a traveling exhibit to be launched on Veterans Day, Nov. 11, 2016.

For more information about the meeting or these upcoming events, please contact the council's program officer, Eulalia V. Arriola at 235-4785. ***(PR)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Belated happy birthday to Ariel Victoria LG. Ayuyu who celebrated her special day last Feb. 28. Happiest birthday to you and may the Lord bless you with many more birthdays to come. Also a big congratulations to you and Jacin on your baby shower celebrated on Feb. 27, 2016. We wish you both nothing but the best and many more blessings coming your way. We love you both. With love from your Santos family in Kagman .

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday greetings to this amazing husband and father—our very own firefighter Benjamin Paul Manglona! Pauly, the kids, and I are so thankful that the good Lord has blessed us with another year to spend with you and we continue to pray for many, many more years to come. Happy birthday and we love you with all our hearts! Love always, your family.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Procurement and Supply

SPECIAL NOTICE

General Contractors, Suppliers, and Interested Firms

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is inviting general contractors, suppliers, and interested firms to attend an informational conference pertaining to USEPA Grant Funded Water & Wastewater projects that CUC will procure in this fiscal year. Overall, these projects include construction work, repair work, and supply of goods and equipment on Rota, Saipan, and Tinian.

Proposed Projects for Fiscal Year 2016 (Saipan, Tinian & Rota):

- Renovation of Wastewater Lift Station SR1
- Rota Water System Improvement
- Renovation of Wastewater Lift Stations S6 & S10
- Upgraded Pump Controls for Wastewater Lift Station S3
- Tinian Water System Improvements
- Sewer Service Lines
- Improvements to the Kagman Water System
- Water Main Replacement in Capitol Hill
- Water Main Replacement in As Lito
- Replacement of the NMC Water Reservoir
- Water Main Replacement in Gualo Rai
- Repair of Stand by Generators
- Water Main Replacement-Herman's Bakery
- Water Main Replacement in Chalan Kiya
- Water Main Extension on Sailing Drive
- Design and Construction of Improvements to the Maui Well Shafts

Conference Information:

Place : CUC Conference Room
3rd Floor, Room 15, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building
Dandan, Saipan, MP 96950
Date : March 3, 2016
Time : 10:00 a.m. ChST
Contact : Manny B. Sablan, Purchasing Officer,
e-mail address: manny.sablan@cucgov.org
John Riegel, Senior Engineer, e-mail address: john.riegel@cucgov.org

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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BERNIE SANDERS' PROPOSALS WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE TO ACCOMPLISH... YOU'VE GOT TO BE MORE REALISTIC.
SANDERS GAL RALLY
DONALD TRUMP CAN HANDLE THE PRESIDENCY!
YOUNG VOTERS
YOUNG VOTERS
"LIKE ME!"

EDITORIAL

Stop saying Donald Trump can't win. He can.

It's been a media mantra since Donald Trump began campaigning last summer: He can't possibly become president.

It's time that everyone realized that yes, he can.

Surveys show the billionaire New York businessman and TV personality has extremely high negatives—but so does likely Democratic opponent Hillary Clinton. And unlike Clinton, Trump can run as an anti-establishment candidate at a time when anti-establishment feeling is intense, gaining strength and bringing new voters to the polls.

We are mortified at what might happen if Trump rides this anger into the White House. Why? His casual cruelty, dishonesty and belligerence, his awful remarks about Mexicans and women, his ignorance about military and foreign policy issues, his open admiration for Russian dictator Vladimir Putin—all this and more make him unfit for a position of immense power and consequence.

But these extreme shortcomings are ignored by millions of Americans who believe that Trump grasps their problems and fears in ways the nation's leaders do not. These Americans see an economy and a tax system that increasingly seem to help only the wealthiest acquire more wealth. They see decades of middle-class wage stagnation as something Washington blithely accepts. They look at the immigration chaos in Europe and the Middle East and wonder why the elites of both parties are so intent on bringing more people to a country that doesn't have enough good jobs or money to help those already here. They consider our foreign policy under both Republican and Democratic presidents and doubt it's made us safer.

Americans with some or all of these views are attracted to both Trump and Sen. Bernie Sanders, the Vermont socialist who has done far better against Clinton in the Democratic nomination race than anyone expected. They see Trump and Sanders attacked by the media and the conventional politicians of both parties—and that makes them even more attractive.

But of the two, Trump is not going away. Given how popular he is even in the home states of GOP rivals Ted Cruz, Marco Rubio and John Kasich, it is hard to believe he will not win the Republican nomination. And the old conventional wisdom about this leading to a Clinton general election landslide seems shakier all the time. The former secretary of state, New York senator and first lady is a symbol of the political establishment at a time when many voters will see that as a negative.

Trump knows this, as reflected by his gleeful assaults on Jeb Bush, the embodiment of the GOP establishment. He's crude and vulgar, but he's not stupid. If he tones down his act just a bit; if he picks a reassuring running mate; if there are other terrorist attacks like those in late 2015 in Paris and San Bernardino — Trump just might be the favorite to win in November. There are signs mainstream Republicans are figuring

See STOP on Page 11

A rose tattoo

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.

It was called "The Rose Tattoo," an Anna Magnani and Burt Lancaster film of '55, but by the time I reached 15 in '60, Perry Como of our international familiar and Diomedes Maturan of the Pinoy velvety voice variety came out with their version of the song. I tried to remember the lyrics as I visited the only legally registered tattoo artist in Saipan, over at the Marianas Ink on Beach Road, but to no measure of success.

I was too young to see the melodramatic movie of '55 though Anna Magnani was a flame in her time and, of course, Burt Lancaster already came to his own in the famous romp scene with Deborah Kerr on the From Here to Eternity movie, set in Hawaii about three GIs before the bombing of Pearl Harbor. (Whew! Age us a bit, don' it!)

There is reason to think "Rose," in addition to the favored flower image for tattooing of ladies and gents, though cherry blossoms and the koi fish are a favored choice at the Marianas Ink (MI) on Beach Road. The building where the tattoo parlor is located belongs to Cathy from Hong Kong, also used by her famous sister Rose who runs a dance studio on the second floor next to the tattoo place. Cathy is Mom to MI proprietor Eugene Ka-lok Wong.

Downstairs is Rose's restaurant, the only authentic Cantonese (Guangdong-nese to those unfamiliar to the English name) cuisine on island, I was told. It appears that Cathy, Rose, and eldest sister Ann, occupy the two-door ground floor and four-door upper floor two-story building. The tattoo place quickly registered on my mind as "Rose Tattoo" of the Como-Maturan song.

MI is the only registered tattooing shop on Saipan. Other folks do tattooing also but are not technically licensed to do it. Nor do they subject themselves to the stringent legal requirements of maintaining a healthy, disease-free environment. MI's tools and equipment are sterile and reportedly, the tattooing tools are never used twice, or are properly sterilized.

The professional tattoo artist Chris Sablan is meticulous in his custom designs, fitting images to the pleasure of the customer and the contour of their bodies, insuring that the needle does not puncture beyond the subcutaneous level that can lead to swelling. The customized design is a house feature offered in dialogue with the client. The place's cubicles look like a hospital OR, or a well-kept massage parlor.

The practice of tattooing has been popularized by the Japanese Yakuza, along with the Italian Mafia and Han's Tong that quietly but definitely hold substantial presence on island. They show a prideful practice of the art in their bodies, already displayed when Japan occupied the islands. Prevalent among many in Japan who decorate their bodies is the display of elaborate tattoos. It's color and flamboyance is quite in contrast to the Spartan but well organized nature of Japanese indoor/landscape art.

Cultures in many Pacific Islanders are known to have tattoo as a profoundly communal practice. We saw it in Samoa and among the Maori in New Zealand; some native girls in Papua New Guinea get their tattoo as early as five with an item added each year until they finally get the V-shaped form from the neck to the chest to indicate that they are ready for marriage.

Polynesian tattooing (tatatu in Tonga) suffered from missionaries and colonizers who frowned on the practice as totally pagan, diverting focus from the favored transcendent god in the sky to the glory of the human body down on Earth, a dastardly bias. It experienced a revival in Nuku'alofa of late.

Tongan royalty converted to British Methodism, and that spelled the doom of the body art for a while. Not unlike the Puritanical notion that considers tatatu as a desecration of the human body, the art attracts a subculture in America considered not among its guardians of public order. That prejudice is stuck in the public mind even as the youth revolution picked up the practice again.

Done au naturel, the practice of body painting takes naked ladies to lounge on the beach for photo shoot without alarming crowds. The annual swimsuit shoot in the last issue of Sports Illustrated uses the body paint among the posed models.

Precursor to the body paint is the art of tattooing observed in the islands of Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia. Dressing up with body paint is now the way to go. Gene, the MI proprietor, takes a more serious look at the art other than just offering an old exotic service to wayward tourists and sailors. Historically, Navy salts hid the art under cover until after World War II when they took the practice on shore leaves as evident in the parlors around military bases in the Philippines and Vietnam in their heydays.

I skipped the prick when I was in Nuku'alofa as most of my colleagues kept hands clasp at the prayer meeting, shunned tatatu sessions, which is just as well, for there is a level of permanence in the art that even MI cannot easily dissolve.

Now, you know where to get a decent rose tattoo.

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Emotional push for Trump, Sanders may well fade

By HAROLD JACKSON
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Harold Jackson is editorial page editor for The Philadelphia Inquirer. *Readers may send him email at hjackson@phillynews.com*

With emotion providing much of the fuel propelling the anti-establishment campaigns of Donald Trump and Bernie Sanders, their supporters should consider the fates of past presidential candidates once the exuberance faded and voters focused on who could actually turn rhetoric into action.

The excitement displayed by young people at rallies for Sanders brings to mind the "Run, Jesse, Run" campaign of Jesse Jackson in 1984, when the civil rights leader who marched with the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. attracted both black and white voters with a message that Sanders has mirrored in calling attention to income inequality.

"President Reagan says the nation is in recovery. Those 90,000 corporations that made a profit last year but paid no federal taxes are recovering," Jackson said. "The 37,000 military contractors who have benefited from Reagan's more than doubling of the military budget in peacetime, surely they are recovering. The big corporations and rich individuals who received the bulk of a three-year, multibillion tax cut from Mr. Reagan are recovering. But no such recovery is underway for the least of these."

That was from Jackson's speech to the Democratic National Convention in July 1984, when his defeat by former Vice President Walter Mondale had become certain. I saw him earlier when he spoke to a raucous crowd in Birmingham prior to Alabama's primary on Super Tuesday.

"Electric" is the best word I can think of to describe the feeling inside Boutwell Auditorium that night. Jackson took to the stage like a rock star and stoked the crowd of about 5,000 to a fever pitch with his famous call-and-response chant:

"I am!" screamed Jackson.
"Somebody!" yelled the crowd.
"I am!"
"Somebody!"
"Respect me!"
"Protect me!"
"Our time!" he shouted.
"Has come!" they responded.

Having grown up in Birmingham when segregation ruled and four little girls were killed in a church bombing, I don't mind saying it was hard for me to keep in mind that I was covering the rally for United Press International and shouldn't get caught up in the moment. But someone else there may have had a much harder time remembering his role.

Birmingham's first black mayor, Richard Arrington Jr., joined Jackson on the stage and was wildly cheered by the crowd when introduced by the candidate, who embraced him. But Arrington, like most of Alabama's top black political leaders, was committed to Mondale. They were being pragmatic. They expected that Mondale would survive challenges by Jackson and Colorado Sen. Gary Hart and become the party nominee.

Mondale represented the party establishment, of which Arrington, Atlanta Mayor Andrew Young, Philadelphia Mayor Wilson Goode and numerous other black politicians in urban areas had fought hard to become a member. The black political elite endorsed Mondale, as did civil rights icons Coretta Scott King and Julian Bond, because they believed he had the best chance of being elected and helping the African-American community.

In rural areas, however, Jackson's candidacy fired up black voters and politicians, including 23 of Alabama's 25 black mayors, who gave him their unswerving support. That helped Jackson win two-thirds of the African-American vote in the Georgia, Alabama and Florida primaries. But Mondale got enough black votes to win in Georgia and Alabama, while Hart took Florida. Jackson would eventually win the Washington, D.C., South Carolina and Louisiana primaries, and narrowly lose in Mississippi's convoluted caucus system.

The same pragmatism that saw many black leaders support Mondale in 1984 was also evident in 2008. Black voters didn't immediately see upstart Illinois Sen. Barack Obama as a viable candidate. Some even questioned Obama's blackness, just as Ben Carson did with comments referencing Obama's white mother and childhood in Indonesia.

In 2008, the Rev. Al Sharpton was among those discounting Obama's candidacy. "I think it's really racist for people to assume just because somebody is black, we ought to automatically support them," said Sharpton, who, by the way, met with Sanders earlier this month in Harlem.

It was only after it became evident that Obama could win the Democratic nomination that many in the black political establishment, including a previously ambivalent Jackson, began to openly show signs of support.

Once Obama became the party's nominee, the floodgates of emotion were opened as African-Americans could taste the possibility of electing a black president. No doubt Hillary Clinton is hoping for a similar surge of support from young women when the possibility of her becoming the first female president becomes more palpable.

That moment could come soon if Sanders falters in the coming Southern primaries, where black voters who supported Bill Clinton are expected to turn out for Hillary. She, too, is being helped by the black political elite, who show no signs of abandoning their tradition of supporting the establishment candidate.

But Sanders hasn't given up on generating black support. He has tried to appeal to black voters' emotions with speeches addressing income disparity, the high cost of medical care, and when police shoot unarmed black suspects. So has Clinton. But Sanders doesn't have her history, including work as a young lawyer with the Children's Defense Fund, which helps her message resonate with black voters.

On the Republican side, Trump continues to win primaries by making bombastic statements that appeal to voters' emotions without providing the details to determine whether his ideas would actually work.

What the Republicans need is a moment like the one Mondale had during a 1984 debate when he dismissed Hart's candidacy by derisively asking, "Where's the beef?" The humorous allusion to a Wendy's commercial suggested that Hart's ideas were like a hamburger without meat. That got voters' attention 32 years ago. No doubt some establishment Republicans are praying for a similar moment for Trump today.

Voters need to focus on who can be an effective president. Emotion has its place in choosing a candidate. But if emotion is all that person can offer, he isn't the right person for the job.

Rubio attacks Trump, but is it too little too late?

By MICHAEL MAYO
Sun Sentinel

Michael Mayo is a Sun-Sentinel *columnist. Readers may send him email at mmayo@sun-sentinel.com.*

Pardon my French, but Marco Rubio and Ted Cruz opened up a can of whoop-ass on Donald Trump at Thursday's GOP debate in Houston.

My biggest question after watching this rollicking, entertaining and simultaneously dispiriting affair—what took them so long?

Their attacks on Trump seemed substantive and effective, but substance seems to matter little in this strange Republican race. And nothing seems to bring Trump down.

So now I wonder if this is all too little too late.

Trump already has the momentum of three wins in four contests heading into Super Tuesday, and his lead in polls keeps growing.

Where was this in September, October and November, when Trump kept soaring higher above the crowded GOP field and everyone except for Jeb Bush seemed afraid to puncture The Donald's balloon?

Back then, everyone seemed to be so busy jockeying to become the respectable alternative to Trump, nobody bothered to actually confront Trump.

Now, in the 10th debate, five days before Super Tuesday and the biggest month of the campaign, they're finally getting around to pointing out all of Trump's inconsistencies, hypocrisy and vague policy proposals?

I thought Rubio was especially nimble on Thursday. He stood toe-to-toe (or is that lip-to-lip?) with Trump all night, and he was quick-witted when he turned the tables on Trump's attacks on him for being repetitive, pointing out how Trump "just repeated himself five times in the last five seconds."

Still, I think Trump the businessman has played this race beautifully. Remember the bromance he had with Cruz all fall, when they agreed not to say disparaging words about each other? And there's also talk that Trump had a deal with Rubio to play nice.

Where did this strategy get them?

Trump was able to keep building momentum as the outsider.

Rubio, meanwhile, was attacked by Bush and Chris Christie. And Cruz kept getting attacked by the rest of the field, including by Ben Carson and Rubio for dirty tricks.

Now Rubio and Cruz are stuck trying to tear down Trump while both are well behind, deadlocked for second.

True, the Republican race has hardly begun when it comes to delegate count, with Trump at 82, Cruz at 17 and Rubio at 16 (1,237 delegates are needed to win the nomination).

But Trump can virtually lock things up in the next month, especially with some big winner-take-all states like Florida (99 delegates).

If his foes started attacking him in the fall, Trump might have fallen.

Now Trump looks poised to spring ahead.

STOP

From Page 10

this out. On Thursday, Rep. Duncan Hunter of Alpine became among the first members of Congress to endorse him.

We hope that Trump self-destructs. But even if that happens, the Trump phenomenon and the Sanders near-phenomenon should make it clear to prominent politicians, their patrons and their parties that they need to respond to America's mass alienation and disaffection with specific policies, not patronizing rhetoric. A populist fire is burning. Without the right response, it could become a political and cultural inferno.

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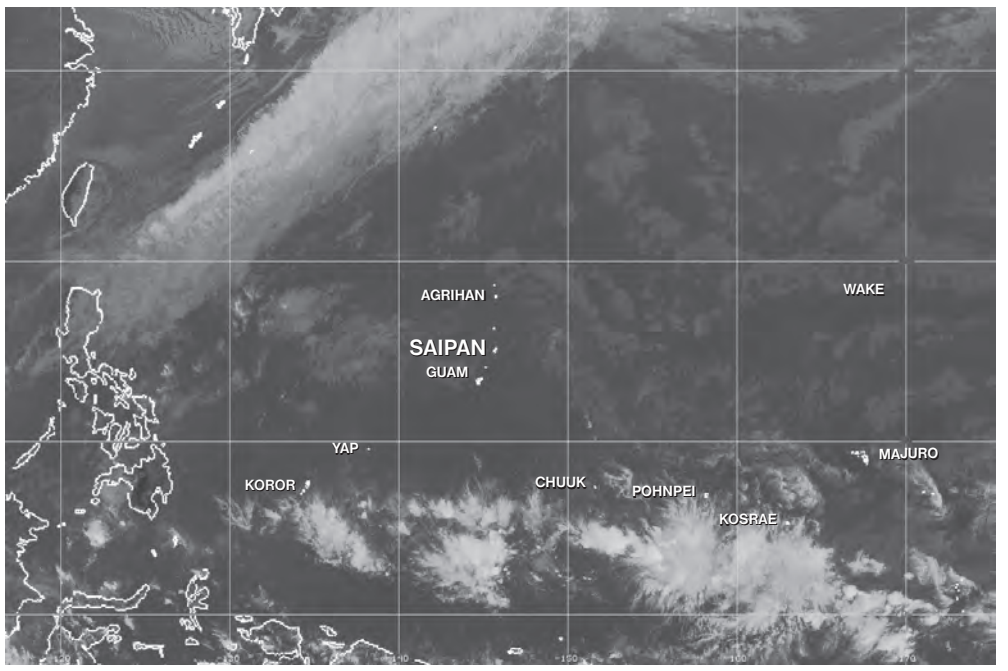
The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of light showers.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of light showers.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of light showers.
▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼75°	▲86° ▼75°	▲86° ▼75°

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 12:49 PM, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2016

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A near-equatorial trough extends east-southeastward from 2N130E to EQ147E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are located south of Palau and Yap between 2N and 6N from 130E to 150E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms south of Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae between 2N and 6N from 150E to 160E and between the equator and 5N from 160E to 170E. A shear-line enters the discussion area near 18N180E and continues to west of Wake Island at 18N162E before turning northwest to end near 22N150E. Patchy clouds and showers are found along and up to 200 miles north of this boundary. A cold front extends southwestward across the northwest part of the discussion area from 25N135E to 18N130E. Clouds and showers can be found up to 300 miles northwest of the boundary far to the northwest of the Marianas. A surface trough stretches from 11N136E to 15N140E. Scattered showers are located west of the Marianas between 11N and 18N from 132E to 140E.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲83	▼76
Palau	Partly Cloudy	▲80	▼77
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲88	▼77
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼80
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	▲86	▼79
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	▲85	▼79
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼79

Around the Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲68	▼66
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲52	▼15
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲57	▼48
Honolulu	Showers	▲79	▼60
London	Mostly Sunny	▲46	▼30
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲79	▼45
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲88	▼68
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲89	▼52
Miami	Cloudy	▲75	▼53
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲56	▼45
Osaka	Sunny	▲43	▼25
Paris	Sunny	▲46	▼26
Pusan	Sunny	▲44	▼11
Rome	Mostly Cloudy	▲57	▼38
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲58	▼47
San Francisco	Sunny	▲67	▼47
Seoul	Sunny	▲36	▼13
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲45	▼16
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲60	▼36

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides

Saipan Harbor

12:40 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet
6:12 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.9 Feet
11:59 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
7:22 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:34 AM	6:25 PM
Wednesday	6:34 AM	6:25 PM
Thursday	6:33 AM	6:25 PM
Friday	6:32 AM	6:25 PM
Saturday	6:32 AM	6:26 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today		11:21 AM
Wednesday	12:22 AM	12:06 PM
Thursday	1:13 AM	12:55 PM
Friday	2:04 AM	1:47 PM
Saturday	2:56 AM	2:42 PM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 1, 2016

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA2924	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA2922	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA2921	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA2920	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA2928	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA2926	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA2921	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA2921	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:20pm	7:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ628	3:50am	7:40am	Daily
7C3403	4:35am	8:30am	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	5:30am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA2924/191	4:15am	9:00am	3, 6 via GUM
UA2924/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	Daily via GUM
UA2922/183	8:40am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA2922/183	8:40am	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2922/193	8:40am	11:10pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:30pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA2921/193	1:30pm	11:10pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA2920/183	2:20pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM
UA2920/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA2920/193	2:20pm	11:10pm	2 via GUM-ROR
UA2928/183	6:05pm	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA2928/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2928/193	6:05pm	11:10pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA2926/191	9:50pm	7:20am+1	1, 6 via GUM
UA2926/191	9:50pm	9:00am+1	3, 6 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ628/721	3:50am	12:50am	Daily via ICN
UA2922/159	8:40am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA2921/159	1:30pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA2920/159	2:20pm	10:35pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA2923	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA2925	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA2921	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA2920	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA2927	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA2929	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA2920	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA2920	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:35am	3:10pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ627	9:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10pm	3:30am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/2927	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 6, 7 via GUM
UA190/2929	9:55am	9:20pm	2, 6, 7 via GUM
UA190/2927	10:00am	5:35pm	3 via GUM
UA190/2929	10:00am	9:20pm	3 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ702/627	12:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
PR110/UA2925	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/2925	10:20pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA192/2920	10:20pm	1:50pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA192/2927	10:20pm	5:35pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA192/2929	10:20pm	9:20pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2925	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2921	10:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2920	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	1 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2927	10:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2929	10:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2925	11:59pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2920	11:59pm	1:50pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2927	11:59pm	5:35pm+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2929	11:59pm	9:20pm+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ724/627	2:20pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
UA116/2925	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2921	10:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA116/2920	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA116/2927	10:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2929	10:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

Santos wants to restore 'even playing field' on Rota

ROTA—At day's end with staff gone home, Sen. Teresita Santos (R-Rota) sat quietly alone pondering the "dead in the water" economic activities back home.

She looked at how Tinian has moved the needle of growth against all odds. "Its leadership has a united stand and taken a more proactive common ground to make things happen for their people with civility," she noted.

Santos

"We've lost the desire to proactively work a common ground with civility as to head down the path to political and private industry crony partnership to ruin opportunities for our simple folks at home," she observed.

The vicious environment triggered "evacuation of our people to Guam and elsewhere in recent past knowing that the island they call home has become a hellish hole for them," she related. The combined political and business cronyism has denied our ordinary people an "even playing field" to earn their dues, she said. "It placed the disadvantaged to seek for some semblance of hope that forcibly included evacuation from home".

"It's painful addressing this issue knowing our reputation as an island community that is friendly and generous with friends and one another," she said. "It is more the reason to reset the button of cultural camaraderie or unity and generosity where we extend the olive branch to our very own and begin anew." Santos said the prevailing attitude of destruction has viciously shut the doors of opportunity for wealth and jobs creation. "It's the concept of finding investments that eventually create jobs for our people," she noted.

"Moreover, it is even more painful meeting our people away from Rota who yearn to return home but there are no opportunities here where they could earn a decent living," she pointed out. "This must shift where we work the common ground with a sense of civility dedicating our collective effort to re-establishing 'home sweet home' once more." This simply means joining hands "spreading the time-honored sense of compassion, generosity and outstanding fellowship among our people," Santos said.

"The outmigration of our people is a dislocation in the sense that among the many who have left is a drain of resources we need here at home," she noted. "For all we know quite of number of them could have begun small family businesses that provide job opportunities for our people an reviving the local economy".

"It's heartbreaking listening to our people elsewhere who speak of a good place with decent schools, hospital, jobs, and community where their kids could excel," she related. "Why can't we rework this so that in fact there are opportunities for families and the disadvantaged by empowering them with an 'even playing field'."

"It's time to do this so our people need not find returning home a bitter experience," she said. "Coming home should be one sweet and enthusiastic experience to see the people and island where one's anchor was established," Santos related. "We should be mindful that they are our people." ***(PR)***

8 NMTI students take 'plating practicum' at Hyatt

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Northern Marianas Trades Institute's Culinary Arts Program lead instructor Tyrell Pauling poses with students who took part in the "plating practicum" at the Hyatt Regency Saipan last week. Also in photo with Pauling are Hyatt chefs. Pauling also serves as director of Food & Beverage for the Hyatt.

The Northern Marianas Trades Institute's Culinary Arts Program recently held its final exam at the Hyatt Regency Saipan. The exam held on Feb. 25 is part of the class' requirement in which students enrolled in the program present their finished dish or "plating practicum."

Eight students went through the rigorous exam, which started by creating a menu suitable for high-end clientele. The parameters in which the students were judged on included taste, presentation, and placement of each portion of the dish. Tyrell Pauling, director of Food & Beverage for the Hyatt and lead instructor for the NMTI program says, "This final practicum exposes our students to the high demands of the culinary trade. After successfully completing this final exam as part of their class requirement, they will then be required to undergo 240 hours of on the job training. In order to successfully earn a certificate in our program, students undergo a full 324 contact hours, thus indicating to prospective employers this was not a fly-by-night experience."

The program participants had the experience of learning from professionals. The eight students were taught by familiar names in the culinary arts locally. Aside from Pauling, students underwent classroom lectures from the likes of chef de cuisine Inas Hocog and sous chef Benjamin Babauta. These are two local boys that went abroad in pursuit of culinary credentials and are now giving back to their community via being instructors at NMTI.

NMTI would like to note that the culinary arts and hospitality program are two of the largest programs in demand at the institute. Prior to these eight students heading toward their "OJT," 13 students have earned certificates since Pauling's program started. Eighteen students have passed the prerequisites and will be starting the program on March 14. There are currently 13 students enrolled in our "Prep for Success" class and are schedule to be the very next cohort to undergo the rigorous culinary program. Pauling further notes, "The courses are rapidly increasing in popularity that we've had to expand our NMTI training facility to accommodate the ongoing demands of our students."

Also in attendance at this event was NMTI's chief executive officer Agnes M. McPhetres. McPhetres said, "NMTI stands by its product. We produce trained individuals in their respective career choices. The hands on approach to education are what separate us from other academic offering currently available to our residents. We ask our residents to take the time and find out for themselves how many hours of actual hands on practicum students are performing. Our students don't just "shadow" professionals in the field; they perform the actual tasks asked of them as they were in a real world situation."

McPhetres further said, "NMTI would like to take this opportunity to invite other prospective students that are aspiring for careers in such technical skills as automotive technology, culinary arts, electrical, carpentry, masonry, air-conditioning, and welding. As the institute was intended to meet the technical training needs of our Northern Marianas residents, we encourage interested individuals to visit our campus located in Lower Base as our resident faculty can provide career counseling in their respective area of interest."

The institute takes pride in the quality of the education students receive as many of the instructors are familiar faces within our community. These are qualified individuals, whom are well respected in their respective fields. NMTI recognizes that its successes are a result of its partnerships and recognizes the CNMI Department of Labor and HANMI for continuing to refer prospective clients and would encourage other stakeholders seeking qualified employees to refer potential employees to the institute for further professional development in their areas of interest. For more information on the various trades offered, please visit the NMTI website at www.nmticnmi.com or call (670) 235-6684. ***(PR)***

BOG offers $10K in college scholarships

HAGATNA, Guam—Bank of Guam is pleased to announce that applications are now available for its 2016 IFIT Scholarship Program, which makes $2,000 available to five graduating high school seniors to attend a U.S. accredited four year college or university. The scholarship also includes a paid summer internship at the Bank's branches.

» 5 awardees to receive $2K each plus paid summer internship

To be eligible for the program, applicants must:

1. Reside in Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, or San Francisco, California;

2. Be high school seniors, Class of 2016 (copies of transcripts and SAT and/or ACT scores required);

3. Submit application by March 11, 2016 to Bank of Guam, ATTN: Communications Department;

4. Submit three (3) letters of recommendation, two (2) from a teacher or administrator from the student's high school and one (1) from a reference of choice; and

5. Submit answers to three (3) essay questions (please see brochure for additional rules), and a one minute video clip about the applicant.

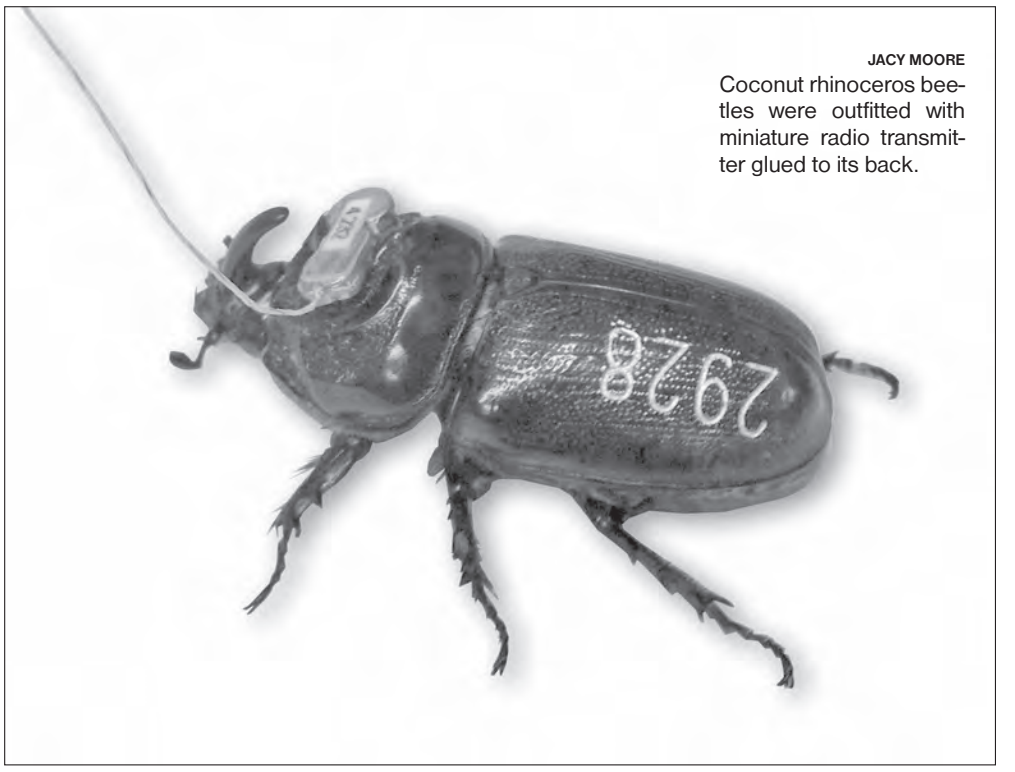
The scholarship will be available for use at any four-year U.S. accredited college or university. Ten semi-finalists will be selected by April 2016 and will then be required to submit additional documents, including an acceptance letter to a U.S. accredited four year college or university.

Applications are available online at www.bankofguam.com, at all Bank of Guam branches, Customer Service Department in Hagatna Branch and the Communications Department. They have also been distributed to local and neighboring island high schools.

Please contact Jackie Marati at (671) 472-5258, or jackie.marati@bankofguam.com for any information. ***(PR)***

UOG scientist, colleagues tag coconut rhinoceros beetles

JACY MOORE
Aubrey Moore tracks radio-tagged coconut rhinoceros beetles to find cryptic breeding sites.



JACY MOORE
Coconut rhinoceros beetles were outfitted with miniature radio transmitter glued to its back.

Coconut rhinoceros beetles were first discovered on Guam in 2007. Adults kill palms when they bore into crowns to feed on sap. Rhino beetle larvae feed only on dead plant material at breeding sites and they do no damage. In order to eradicate rhino beetles, all breeding sites must be found and destroyed. Four dogs were trained to lead handlers to cryptic breeding sites on Guam. This detector dog program was effective but very expensive and it was shut down after a few years.

Aubrey Moore, a University of Guam entomologist, suggested following radio-tagged rhino beetles to breeding sites as a cost-effective alternative to using detector dogs. In August 2015, funded by US Forest Service, this idea was tested in a small feasibility study on Guam by a research team that included Moore; Dr. Matthew Siderhurst and his students, Kat Lehmann and Diego Barahona from Eastern Mennonite University, Virginia; Domenick Skabeikis from the USDA Pacific Basin Research Center in Hilo, Hawaii; and UOG technician, Ian Iriarte.

During the 10-day field trial, miniature radio transmitters were glued to the backs of rhino beetles. These beetles were released at the UOG College of Natural & Applied Sciences (CNAS) Agricultural Experiment Station in Yigo and at Asan Beach Park and their locations were tracked for a few days using special radio receivers equipped with directional antennas.

The majority of beetles were tracked to coconut trees that had already been damaged by rhino beetles. A few other beetles quickly flew beyond the detection range of the receivers and were never recovered. As hoped, several beetles lead the team to cryptic breeding sites. The transmitter from one of the first beetles to be released was found the next day in a hole in a rotting branch of a breadfruit about 20 feet above the ground. Three other adult beetles were found in the same hole indicating that the beetles had aggregated here to establish a new breeding site.

According to Moore, "It is very likely that the breadfruit branch was broken during Typhoon Dolphin, which visited Guam in May 2015. If this is the case, there must be thousands of new, miniature breeding sites in Guam's jungles resulting from typhoon damage. These breeding sites will be generating large numbers of adult rhino beetles within the next several months."

Another unexpected result from the field trial is the fact that none of the 30 tagged beetles were caught in pheromone traps, even though all were released within pheromone trapping grids. This indicates that rhino beetle pheromone traps may be useful for detection and surveillance but are ineffective for population control.

Cryptic breeding sites can be found by following radio-tagged beetles and this method may be critical to the success of eradication attempts on newly invaded islands. ***(PR)***

Bordallo announces Ro appointed to US Military Academy

HAGÅTÑA, Guam—Congresswoman Madeleine Z. Bordallo announced that Charlson Ro has been offered a letter of appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point in New York.

Charlson is the son of Joo Jin and Jae Seon Ro of Dededo and a 2015 graduate of St. John's High School. Charlson was nominated by Congresswoman Bordallo, and competed with nominees nationwide for admission into West Point.

Charlson currently attends the University of California, Berkley. He was a National Merit Scholarship finalist and served as National Honor Society president. Charlson was a member of the cross country team and played lead percussion in his school's various musical groups, in addition to many other extracurricular activities.

"I am proud of the Charlson and congratulate him on this offer to attend West Point and serve our nation in the Army," said Congresswoman Bordallo. "Charlson and his family have a lot to look forward to and I wish him luck at the Academy and for his successful completion of courses at West Point. I find it remarkable that this gifted young man is willing to leave a great education at Berkley to attend West Point and serve our nation. This speaks volumes about the untapped potential of our future generations and their desire to serve their country. I know that Charlson will continue to excel and make our island proud. ***(PR)***

Symposium on 'Spanish-Chamorro Wars' on March 3

The first 30 years of the Spanish mission in the Marianas beginning in 1668 was a time marked with conflict and division. Father Francis Hezel explored this important period in a recent publication entitled "When Cultures Clash," in which he argues that the effects of what has been called the "Spanish-Chamorro Wars" were not as devastating as earlier historians have suggested.

His argument will be presented and explored by other scholars from Guam and Spain in a special symposium hosted by the University of Guam Richard Flores Taitano Micronesian Area Research Center on Thursday, March 3, 2016 from 4pm to 6pm in the IT&E Lecture Hall (room 131) of the Jesus & Eugenia Business and Public Administration Building on the UOG campus.

"According to the standard textbooks, this 30-year period was one of utter devastation with forced conversion, rapid cultural change, precipitous population decline, and loss of Chamorro identity," Hezel states. "Or was it? The Spanish missionaries, at least in the first few years of their work, did not have the protection of soldiers. Later, when troops finally arrived, the priests themselves recognized that the troops could be more of a hindrance than a help to their own work. Then, too, the Chamorro people might have been far more divided than early historians imagined. Some might have eagerly converted for any number of reasons, social and political as well as religious. Spanish records of this period reveal the sharp divisions between members of the Spanish party as well as the polarization in the local population."

Hezel will present his research on this period at the symposium, where he will be joined by other scholars, who will be asked to react to a number of the historical points highlighted in his publication. The public will also be invited to participate in the conversation.

For more information please contact LaVonne Guerrero-Meno at (671) 735-2150 or lavonneg@triton.uog.edu. ***(PR)***

Cost benefit analysis of deepsea mining in Pacific released

SUVA, Fiji—Various scenarios for mining deep sea minerals in the waters of three Pacific Island countries are assessed in a cost benefit analysis report commissioned by the Pacific Community (SPC) and the European Union.

The report aims to assist Pacific Island countries with their decision making concerning deep sea minerals and provide information about the potential magnitude of the impacts of deep sea mining.

The assessment, conducted by Cardno between February and October 2015, offers decision-makers insights into the potential constraints and challenges to achieving positive net benefits if deep sea minerals mining were to occur under current circumstances.

It is part of the European Union-supported Deep Sea Minerals Project, implemented by SPC, aimed at improving the governance and management of the deep-sea minerals resources of 15 Pacific states.

Based on the resource potential of three countries, the analysis considers the monetary value of all aspects of mining Seafloor Massive Sulphides in Papua New Guinea; Manganese Nodules in Cook Islands; and Cobalt-rich Crusts in Republic of the Marshall Islands.

"This cost-benefit analysis was initiated in consultation with Pacific Island nations to provide a better understanding of the costs and benefits likely to be associated with deep sea mining," SPC's Deep Sea Minerals project manager Akuila Tawake, said.

"It's all about helping Pacific nations make informed decisions should they wish to engage in this new industry," he said.

Notably, the report found that seafloor massive sulphide mining in Papua New Guinea has benefits that significantly outweigh the costs.

Also, it revealed that a mining scenario in the Cook Islands (where four metals are recovered and the miner owns the operation and the processing facility in a country other than Cook Islands) has the highest net benefits.

However, the report states that crust-mining in the Marshall Islands, under the two scenarios considered, is currently not economically viable due to present metal prices, expected ore recovery, and the cost of technology.

The report concludes that as long as proper steps are taken to manage the wealth in the long-term and to transfer the environmental risk from the people of the host country to the mining company, there is a higher possibility of the social benefits outweighing the social costs.

Despite the study's limited focus on three countries, it provides important findings and considerations that are applicable to other Pacific nations with similar deep sea mineral resources, Akuila said

The report, An Assessment of the Costs and Benefits of Mining Deep- Sea Minerals in the Pacific Island region, can be accessed at http://gsd.spc.int/dsm/index.php/publications-and-reports. ***(SPC)***

Business

Apple's tech allies oppose the FBI, but still want your data

PALO ALTO, California (AP)—In its fight with the FBI, Apple insists it's defending the privacy and safety of all iPhone users by resisting government calls to help unlock an extremist's iPhone. And now other big tech companies such as Google and Facebook are rallying to Apple's side.

Wait just a minute: Aren't those the same companies that Apple has previously criticized by lobbing veiled accusations that they exploit your personal information—to sell ads—and effectively endanger your privacy?

Some might argue that Apple's allies are hypocrites when it comes to privacy, much like the fraternity brothers in "Animal House" who declared: "He can't do that to our pledges. Only we can do that to our pledges."

But Silicon Valley's view of privacy is more nuanced than that. And Americans historically have worried less about the private sector and more about the government's power to infringe on individual rights.

"The government can put me in jail," said Larry Downs, a scholar at Georgetown University's Center for Business and Public Policy. "Google, Facebook and Twitter cannot."

That makes the details of the iPhone case especially important. The FBI says it's only asking for narrow technical assistance in bypassing security features on a phone used by one of the shooters who killed 14 people in San Bernardino. "We couldn't look the survivors in the eye if we did not follow this lead," FBI Director James Comey said online.

AP

A New York police officer stands outside the Apple Store on Fifth Avenue while monitoring a demonstration, Tuesday, Feb. 23, 2016, in New York.

Apple contends that a magistrate's order would force it to create software that will make other iPhones vulnerable to future hacking by authorities and criminals. Leading tech companies including Google, Twitter, Facebook and Microsoft say they'll file legal arguments in support of Apple's position.

The same companies objected loudly after former government contractor Edward Snowden revealed the scope of National Security Agency surveillance programs that collected user data and even tapped their networks without their knowledge. The companies have gone to court and Congress to limit that kind of government data-gathering, while also fighting attempts to weaken the encryption codes that shield your messages from prying eyes.

How to mend relationship with colleague

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE
Tribune News Service

Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of "Secrets to Winning at Office Politics."

Q: One of my co-workers is extremely angry because I shared some information with my boss. "Grace" and I manage complex projects for a global consulting firm. Recently, an important client complained to me about the quality of Grace's work on a previous assignment.

Because the firm needs to keep this client happy, I mentioned the concerns to my manager, who asked me to summarize them in an email. Despite some misgivings, I agreed to do this. My boss forwarded the email to Grace's manager, who then sent it to her. Now Grace is furious with me. How can I fix this and avoid similar problems in the future?

A: Because client relationships are the lifeblood of any consulting firm, Grace definitely needed this feedback. However, you should have given her a heads-up before reporting the complaints to management.

For example: "Grace, I hate to be the one to tell you this, but Bob at XYZ Corp. is unhappy about certain aspects of your last engagement there. Because I'm currently working with him, I have to share this information with my boss. She might mention it to your manager, so I thought I should let you know."

Although delivering this message would not be pleasant, the advance notice could have allowed Grace to break the news to management herself. As it was, people were discussing her competence in emails before she even knew there was a problem. So if you wish to repair this relationship, you must acknowledge your mistake.

For example: "Grace, I'm so sorry that you were blindsided by Bob's concerns. Although I had to share the information with my boss, I should have talked with you first. I hope you can forgive this oversight, because our working relationship is really important to me."

Upon receiving this apology, Grace is quite likely to fire one final blast in your direction. But if you seem sincerely remorseful, eventually she should calm down.

Q: My boss is a micromanaging dictator. She is very condescending and won't let anyone make decisions without her approval. She gave me a reprimand when I hadn't done anything wrong. I feel mistreated and disrespected, but don't know what to do about it. Should I ask human resources to intervene?

A: When a lone employee criticizes the boss's leadership style, management may view it as a personality conflict. But if several people present the same case, it begins to look as though there might really be a problem. Therefore, if you plan to report your overbearing manager, you should think in terms of "we," not "I."

Before contacting HR, see if other dissatisfied colleagues will agree to accompany you. Instead of complaining about your boss's character, provide specific examples of how her actions are adversely affecting your work. By calmly focusing on business issues, you will greatly increase your credibility.

If soliciting support from co-workers proves to be difficult, then perhaps they don't share your strong feelings. In that case, you might as well abandon this crusade, because no one is going to back you up.

Washington considers nation's first carbon emissions tax

SEATTLE (AP)—Washington could become the first state in the nation to impose a direct tax on carbon emissions from fossil fuels such as coal, gasoline and natural gas.

A ballot measure before the state Legislature would create a carbon tax of $25 per metric ton of fossil fuel emissions burned in Washington, while reducing taxes.

Lawmakers have until the end of the session on March 10 to enact Initiative 732, offer an alternative proposal or automatically pass the carbon-tax measure to voters in November as written. It's not clear whether lawmakers will approve an alternative by the end of the session.

The grass-roots group Carbon Washington—which gathered more than 350,000 signatures to qualify the initiative—says a carbon tax is the best way to reduce emissions and tackle global warming. It says the tax encourages people and businesses to switch to cleaner energy by making fossil fuels more expensive.

The proposal is designed to be "revenue neutral," meaning that though tax revenues would increase for fossil fuels, it would mostly be offset by a decrease in other tax revenues. In this case, revenues would be returned to people and businesses by cutting the state sales tax by one point, virtually eliminating business taxes for manufacturers and providing rebates for working families, supporters say.

A state economic analysis, however, estimates the measure could cost the state about $915 million in lost revenues over the first four years. Initiative sponsors maintain that several assumptions used in the state's analysis are wrong.

An official with the Office of Financial Management told lawmakers this month there has been "back and forth" but still a lot of disagreement between parties.

"Our intent is to be revenue neutral and we're very close to being revenue neutral," said Joe Ryan, co-chair of Carbon Washington. The nonpartisan group has raised nearly $815,000 since early 2015 with donations coming from 860 unique contributors.

Lawmakers and other groups, however, worry the loss in revenues would hurt the state's ability to pay for education, social services and other programs.

"I think there's agreement that I-732 isn't workable because of how much it would reduce state revenues," said Rep. Joe Fitzgibbon, D-Burien, who chairs the House Environment Committee. "We have to trust the experts."

Washington's carbon tax is modeled after one in British Columbia. Carbon-tax proposals have been introduced in legislatures in Vermont, Massachusetts and New York.

In Washington state, I-732 supporters say it is the most efficient, less bureaucratic way to reduce carbon emissions. They also see the November election as their best shot at taking climate action.

BankGuam Holding Co. declares 1Q dividends

BankGuam Holding Company announced that its board of directors declared a quarterly cash dividend of $0.10 per share at its board's regular meeting held on Monday, Feb. 22. The dividend will be paid on March 31, 2016, to shareholders of record as of March 15, 2016.

BankGuamHolding president and chair of the board, Lou A. Leon Guerrero stated, "I am happy to report that we have met our financial performance for this quarter, thus allowing us to once again provide a return on our shareholder's investment."

Contact BankGuam Holding EVP and COO William D. Leon Guerrero at (671) 472-5273 for more information. ***(PR)***

Gagarin promoted to BOG vice president

HAGATNA, Guam—The Bank of Guam board of directors, management, and staff are pleased to announce that Alice C. Gagarin has been promoted to Vice President/Automobile Banking Group manager.

Gagarin

Gagarin joined Bank of Guam in 2005, following her graduation from the University of San Diego majoring in Business Administration. She was hired as a management trainee, and was promoted to Credits officer in the Retail Banking Group. She was then assigned to the Mortgage Banking and Commercial Banking Groups before her promotion to head the bank's Automobile Banking Group.

In 2012, Gagarin earned the distinction of being the Guam Small Business Administration's Banker of the Year. In 2013, she was selected as the Bank of Guam Loan Officer of the Year.

For additional information, please call Jackie Marati at (671) 472-5258 or jackie.marati@bankofguam.com. ***(PR)***

Nation

KKK members linked to violent brawl released

ANAHEIM, California (AP)—Five Ku Klux Klan members who were arrested following a vicious brawl in Anaheim were released because evidence shows they acted in self-defense, police said Sunday.

Seven people who remained in custody were seen beating, stomping and attacking the Klansmen with wooden posts, Sgt. Daron Wyatt said.

A police statement said the clash, which erupted after six Klan members arrived at a park Saturday for a planned anti-immigration rally, was started by a larger group of 10 to 20 counter-protesters who had "the intent of perpetrating violence."

Police said the Klansmen stabbed three counter-protesters with knives and the decorative end of a flag pole.

"Regardless of an individual or groups' beliefs or ideologies, they are entitled to live without the fear of physical violence and have the right, under the law, to defend themselves when attacked," the statement said.

Mayhem ensued Saturday as soon as the Klan members pulled up in a black SUV for an anti-immigration rally they had advertised in advance and pulled out signs saying "White Lives Matter."

Dozens of protesters swarmed in and someone smashed a window. The SUV then sped away, leaving three Klansmen dressed in black shirts decorated with the Klan cross and Confederate flag patches outnumbered.

"(The counter-protesters) were so angry, they would have torn these folks limb from limb," said Brian Levin, who directs the Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism at California State University, San Bernardino. "I was afraid for their lives."

Levin, who went to Pearson Park expecting to record the rally for research, found himself protecting the Klansmen until police could intervene. On a video Levin shot and posted to Twitter, he later asked one of them, "How do you feel that a Jewish person helped save your life today?"

AP

This photo provided by OC Weekly shows two counter-protesters scuffling with a KKK member on the ground holding a stabbing knife as he grabs an attacking protester, right, during an anti-immigration rally held by the KKK at Pearson Park in Anaheim on Saturday, Feb. 27, 2016.

"I thank you. I thank you," said the Klansman, waving away the question with his blood-spattered arm. "I would have saved a colored man's life," he added.

Much of the clash was captured on video and posted online. In one, a man cries "I got stabbed," lifting his T-shirt to show a wound to his stomach. A fire hydrant where the man briefly sat was covered in blood.

The Klansmen were initially booked for investigation of assault with a deadly weapon, and seven of the approximately 30 counter-protesters were arrested on suspicion of assault with force likely to cause great bodily injury

Like many other cities across the United States, Anaheim has a history intertwined with the KKK. What sets the city apart, however, is its decisive backlash after the Klan gained four of five City Council seats in 1924. Those Klansmen were ousted in a recall election after their affiliations with the Klan became public and following a nighttime KKK initiation rally that attracted an estimated 10,000 people to the city park where Saturday's violence erupted.

"The only reason we remember Anaheim for the Klan is because they fought the Klan so hard," said Phil Brigandi, an Orange County historian and author. "The more the Klan came out of the shadows, the more people became aware of it and the opposition grew."

Drone-mounted handgun, flamethrower reignite lawmaker debate

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP)—The quiet whirring of the drone's propellers gives way to the sound of gunshots—pop, pop, pop, pop—in the 14-second video titled "Flying Gun."

The YouTube video of a drone-mounted handgun firing rounds into the Connecticut woods—and a companion video of a flying flamethrower lighting up a spit-roasting Thanksgiving turkey—have reignited efforts by state legislators to make it a crime to weaponize an unmanned aerial vehicle.

While the Federal Aviation Administration mulls regulations on drones, a number of states have established their own rules—though most of them focus on drone-mounted cameras as threats to privacy and security. Connecticut would be one of the first to restrict how drone owners can modify their craft into potentially dangerous weapons.

"I am a huge Second Amendment supporter and it would make me very happy because I don't see any, any civilian purpose for a flying gun," said Clinton police Sgt. Jeremiah Dunn, whose department investigated the video.

The "Flying Gun" video, posted last summer by Central Connecticut State University student Austin Haughwout, drew the attention of the FAA as well. No charges have been filed but the FAA said last week it was still investigating.

Dunn said his department was instructed by the local state's attorney's office that no Connecticut laws appear to have been violated in the first video and that the incident occurred on wooded private property, where a firearm could be legally discharged. Dunn said no local ordinances were violated, either.

The teen's father contends a new state law is unnecessary, arguing that his son did nothing wrong.

"This is a solution looking for a problem that doesn't exist," said Bret Haughwout.

ACROSS THE NATION

Ohio pastor shot, killed on Sunday at his church

DAYTON, Ohio (AP)—An Ohio pastor with deep roots in the Dayton community was shot and killed in his church office as service was winding down Sunday, and police say they plan to charge his brother. The Rev. William B. Schooler, 70, was shot around 12:30 p.m. at St. Peter's Missionary Baptist Church, Dayton police said.His brother, Daniel Gregory Schooler, 68, was arrested at the church and taken to the Montgomery County jail. He faces a murder charge on Monday, said Sgt. Richard Blommel.Police said they did not know Sunday what led to the shooting but said the pastor was the only intended victim. Joyce Napier, the niece of the brothers, told the Dayton Daily News that Daniel Schooler had a history of mental illness, which she believes played a role in the shooting.

Missing girl found on Montana Indian reservation

WOLF POINT, Mont. (AP)—A missing 4-year-old girl was found Sunday on the Fort Peck Indian Reservation in Montana, just a few miles from where she was reportedly abducted while playing in a park. Roosevelt County spokesman Lee Allmer said the girl was undergoing a medical exam to make sure she was not harmed. The girl was found by Undersheriff Corey Reum a few miles north of Wolf Point, the town where witnesses say she was taken by a young man about 9:30 p.m. Friday. A suspect, John Lieba, was apprehended in Wolf Point while driving around after several witnesses at the park identified him, Allmer said. Lieba, who is about 20 years old, and the girl are not "blood relatives," he said. Both are Native Americans.

US senator wants government to set airline seat-size rules

NEW YORK (AP)—U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer wants to require the Federal Aviation Administration to establish seat-size standards for commercial airlines, which he says now force passengers to sit on planes "like sardines." The New York Democrat told The Associated Press the airlines have been slowly cutting down legroom and seat width. "One of the most vexing things when you travel on an airplane is there's almost no legroom on your standard flight," Schumer said. "There's been constant shrinkage by the airlines." He said he will add an amendment to the FAA Reauthorization Bill that is pending before Congress that would require the agency to set the seat-size guidelines. Schumer planned to formally announce the proposal at a news conference Sunday. Schumer said seat pitch, the distance between a point on an airline seat and the same spot on the seat in front of it, has dropped from 35 inches in the 1970s to a current average of closer to 31 inches, and seat width has gone from 18.5 inches to about 16.5 inches. He argues that the requirement is needed to stop airlines from shrinking those numbers even further.

Salt Lake City police shoot teen, face rock throwers

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—A 17-year-old boy who authorities say was wielding a metal stick was shot and critically injured by Salt Lake City officers Saturday night, touching off unrest downtown as officers donned riot gear and blocked streets and bystanders threw rocks and bottles.

The teenager shot by two Salt Lake City Police officers was in critical condition at a local hospital Sunday after being struck twice in the torso, according to Detective Ken Hansen with the Unified Police Department, which is investigating the shooting.

Salt Lake City Police declined to identify the boy Sunday afternoon because he is a minor.

In a statement, the department said two Salt Lake City officers were trying to break up a fight around 8 p.m. where the teenager and another male were hitting a third male with metal objects.

The officers ordered the males to drop the metal, "stick-like objects," and one male complied. The teenager did not drop the stick and instead moved toward the victim in a threatening manner, Salt Lake City Police Detective Greg Wilking said.

One or both of the police officers then shot the teen.

Police said earlier Sunday that the teenager was shot when he tried to attack one of the officers. Wilking said Sunday afternoon that investigators were still trying to determine if that was the case. He said they had not yet interviewed the officers involved.

Wilking did not have details about how far away the teenager was from officers or the victim when police shot him.

He also did not have details about how long the sticks were or where the males got the metal. Police said earlier Sunday that the boy had been wielding a broomstick.

Police did not release the identities of the other two males involved or whether they were also minors. The male who was hit with the sticks did not require medical attention, Wilking said. He did not know what happened to the other male who had been wielding a stick or whether investigators spoke with him.

Neither officer involved in the shooting was injured, Wilking said. Police are not releasing the identity of the officers but said Sunday that both were placed administrative leave while the incident is investigated.

Asia

Japan to supply PH with military equipment

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Japan will sign an accord with the Philippines to allow Tokyo to supply military equipment to Manila, the first such Japanese defense pact in a region where both have expressed alarm over China's island-building and other aggressive acts in disputed waters.

Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin told The Associated Press on Saturday that the agreement he'll sign on Monday with the Japanese ambassador in Manila is not directed against any country but aims to address gaps in the underfunded Philippine military's capabilities.

The Asian allies began stepping up defense cooperation "even before the disagreement in the West Philippine Sea," Gazmin said, using the name the Philippine government has adopted for the disputed South China Sea, where its territorial conflict with Beijing has flared in recent years.

"It's not directed against any country," he said in what appeared to be an effort to avoid provoking any hostile Chinese reaction.

The Asian neighbors have openly brought their security and political ties to new levels, including by holding joint naval search and rescue drills near the disputed South China Sea last year that angered Beijing.

Philippine President Benigno Aquino III and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe have exchanged visits and vowed to intensify defense cooperation, sparking talks about a possible security pact that will allow Japanese forces to hold larger drills with Filipino troops in the Philippines. The Philippines has signed such visiting forces accords with the United States and Japan.

Japan's Emperor Akihito paid his respects last month at war memorials in the Philippines, where the largest number of Japanese invasion troops perished outside their homeland in World War II.

Last year, Japan's parliament approved contentious legislation that enhances the role of the country's military by loosening post-World War II constraints, reinterpreting the Japanese constitution and fundamentally changing the way it uses its military.

For the first time since the end of the World War II, Japan's military can now defend its allies even when the country isn't under attack and work more closely with the United States and other nations.

North Korea gives media a look at detained American

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP)—North Korea presented a detained American student before the media on Monday in Pyongyang, where he tearfully apologized for attempting to steal a political banner—at the behest, he said, of a member of a church back home who wanted it as a "trophy"—from a staff-only section of the hotel where he had been staying.

North Korea announced in late January it had arrested Otto Warmbier, a 21-year-old University of Virginia undergraduate student. It said that after entering the country as a tourist he committed an anti-state crime with "the tacit connivance of the U.S. government and under its manipulation."

No details of what kind of charges or punishment Warmbier faces were immediately released.

According to Warmbier's statement Monday, he wanted the banner with a political slogan on it as a trophy for the church member, who was the mother of a friend.

In previous cases, people who have been detained in North Korea and given a public confession often recant those admissions after their release.

He was arrested while visiting the country with Young Pioneer Tours, an agency specializing in travel to the North, which is strongly discouraged by the U.S. State Department. He had been staying at the Yanggakdo International Hotel, which is located on an island in a river that runs through Pyongyang.

It is common for sections of tourist hotels to be reserved for North Korean staff and off-limits to foreigners.

Warmbier is a native of Ohio and Ohio Gov. John Kasich, while campaigning in New Hampshire as a Republican presidential candidate, called the arrest "inexcusable." Kasich has urged President Barack Obama to "make every effort to secure Mr. Warmbier's immediate release and keep (his) family constantly apprised."

Kasich said North Korea should either provide evidence of the alleged anti-state activities or release Warmbier.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Myanmar nationalists rally against constitution change

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Hundreds of nationalist Buddhist monks in Myanmar and their supporters have rallied in support of retaining a constitutional clause barring Aung San Suu Kyi, the leader of the country's recently elected ruling party, from becoming head of state. Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy party will take over government in March after winning November's election. But Suu Kyi is barred from becoming president because the military-dictated constitution bars anyone whose immediate family members are foreign nationals from holding the office. Her two sons are British, as was her late husband.

Indian police say man fatally stabs 14 relatives, hangs self

NEW DELHI (AP)—A man in western India fatally stabbed 14 members of his family, including seven children, early Sunday before hanging himself, police said. Hasnain Warekar, 35, went on his overnight killing spree following a Saturday evening family gathering at his home, said Gajanan Laxman Kabdule, a spokesman for the police in the city of Thane, located outside of Mumbai. He said a motive was not known. Warekar's extended family—three sisters, their children and his parents—were among those who apparently had gotten together for dinner, Kabdule said. Warekar's wife and two young daughters were also in the house and were among those killed.

Thai police: 5 arrested in rape, assault of French tourists

BANGKOK (AP)—Police in eastern Thailand said Sunday that they have arrested several Cambodian sailors suspected of attacking four French tourists on a resort island, raping the two women in the group. The five Cambodians assaulted the tourists with knives and sticks Saturday night on the island of Koh Kut after anchoring their fishing boat, said Maj. Gen. Nopparat Rintapon, head of police in Trat province. Three of the tourists were badly injured. One of the tourists ran away and got help at a nearby hotel, while the two female tourists were raped, Nopparat said.

World

Syria's onetime 'capital of the revolution' now a ghost town

HOMS, Syria (AP)—Two years after the last Syrian rebels left the besieged Old City of Homs, voices echo through the shells of bombed-out buildings, their upper floors tilted at odd angles as though frozen in time.

"There is no danger here, because there isn't anybody," a soldier said as gunfire rang out in the distance. "No gunmen, not a soul, not even animals, nothing. Only concrete." He spoke on condition of anonymity in line with regulations.

Some 1,200 rebels and civilians, many of them wounded and starving from a yearlong siege, withdrew from the last remaining strongholds in the ancient heart of Homs in May 2014, surrendering to President Bashar Assad a bloodstained city once dubbed the "capital of the revolution."

The return of nearly all of Syria's third largest city to government control dealt a painful blow to the uprising, which began with mostly peaceful protests in March 2011 before a harsh government crackdown and an ensuing insurgency plunged the country into civil war.

At one point, rebels controlled nearly 70 percent of Homs, which had a prewar population of 1.2 million. But a government counteroffensive and heavy fighting pulverized much of the city, and the siege eventually starved the opposition out.

AP

In this picture taken Friday, Feb. 26, 2016, Syrians walk through a devastated part of the old city of Homs, Syria.

The return of Homs allowed government forces to solidify their presence in central Syria, linking the capital, Damascus, to strongholds on the Mediterranean coast. It soon became a staging ground for advances farther north.

For days after the siege ended, many families returned to check on their homes, gazing bewildered at the sprawling ruins and taking pictures of the destruction. Few elected to stay.

Soldiers still patrol the streets, some of which have green grass sprouting up through the rubble while others are still coated in chalk-white ash. Many are lined with the carcasses of burnt-out cars. Entire neighborhoods are without shops, electricity or running water.

A monumental reconstruction effort would be needed to rebuild the city, but it's unlikely to begin before the end of the war. A recent cease-fire has brought respite to much of Syria, but no one expects the conflict to end anytime soon.

In the meantime, some streets in Homs are slowly coming back to life. In one street in the Baba Amr neighborhood, women could be seen walking children as boys played soccer in the street. Up above, a boy used a broom to sweep the third-floor balcony of a recently rebuilt apartment building.

Cardinal admits 'scandalous' response to abuse allegations

ROME (AP)—One of Pope Francis' top advisers acknowledged Sunday that the Catholic Church "has made enormous mistakes" in allowing thousands of children to be raped and molested by priests over centuries as he testified at an extraordinary public hearing of an Australian investigative commission just a few blocks from the Vatican.

Australian Cardinal George Pell testified via videolink from a Rome hotel to the Royal Commission sitting in Sydney. In the front row of the conference room were two dozen Australian abuse survivors and their companions who had traveled across the globe to be on hand for Pell's testimony, a significant show of accountability in the church's long-running abuse saga.

The lead counsel assisting the commission, Gail Furness, questioned Pell about current Vatican efforts to address the scandal as well as Pell's past in Australia, including how he dealt with abuse allegations as a priest, educator and adviser to former Ballarat Bishop Ronald Mulkearns.

Pell asserted at the start: "I'm not here to defend the indefensible. The church has made enormous mistakes and is working to remedy those." He said the church had "mucked things up and let people down" and for too long had dismissed credible abuse allegations "in absolutely scandalous circumstances."

He termed Mulkearns' handling of Australia's most notorious pedophile priest, Gerald Ridsdale, as a "catastrophe for the church" and suggested that he would be a candidate for a proposed Vatican tribunal to hear the cases of negligent bishops. But Pell also acknowledged that he too had made mistakes in often believing the priests over victims who alleged abuse.

"I must say in those days, if a priest denied such activity, I was very strongly inclined to accept the denial."

It's the third time that the Australian cardinal, Pope Francis' top financial adviser, has testified about the sex abuse scandal, but the current round has generated intense international attention because it is taking place a short walk from the Vatican. In the conference room were media from Australia, the U.S., Italy, and Britain, as well as Rome-based priests and members of the Catholic community.

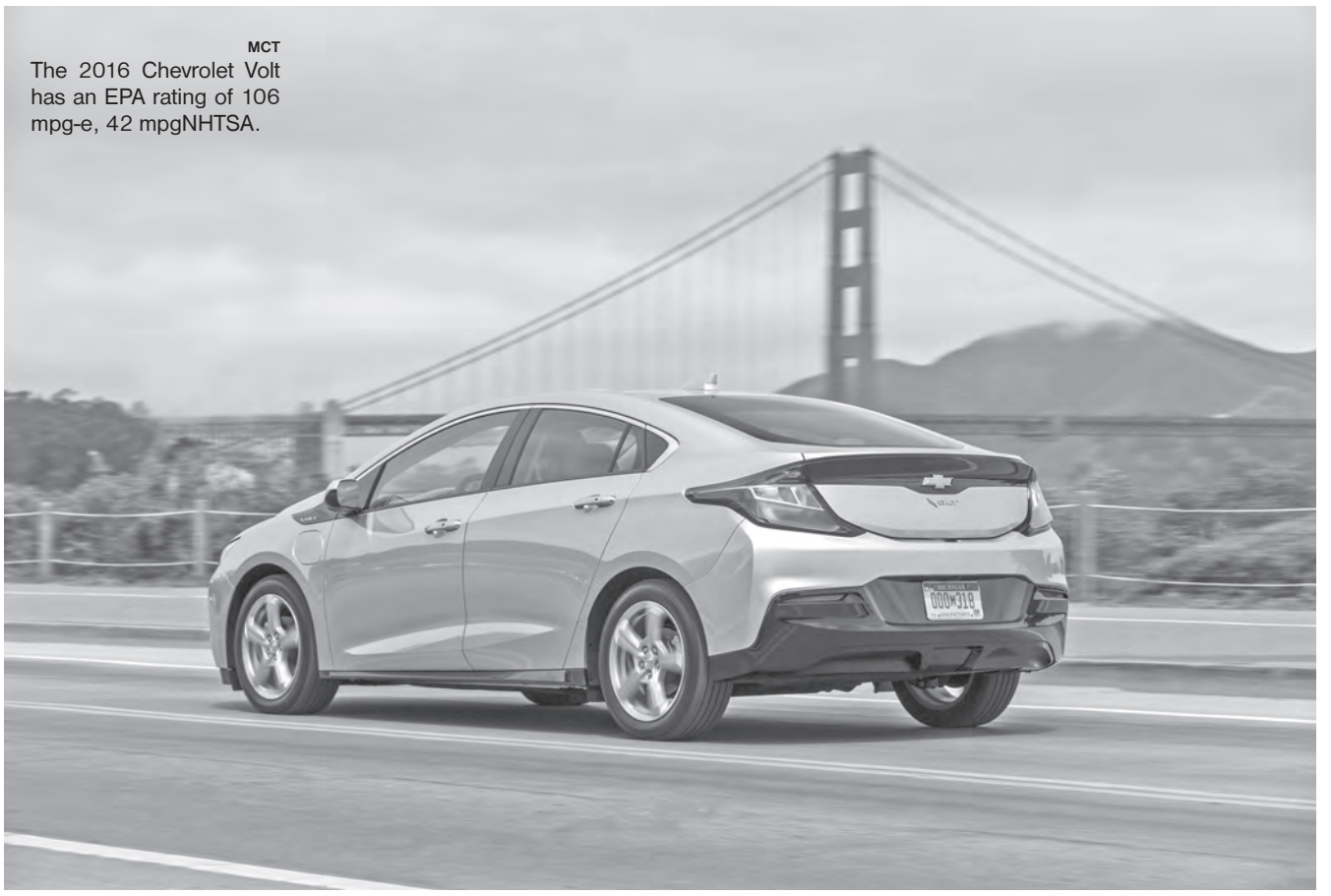
The commission, which is more than halfway through a 435-million Australian dollar ($300-million) government-authorized probe into how all Australian institutions dealt with abuse, agreed to let Pell testify from Rome because he was too ill to travel home. Two weeks ago, it also agreed to let victims be on hand to re-create the type of public hearing that Pell would have faced in Australia.

Overdrive

AUTO REVIEW

Visionary Volt better than ever for 2016

By LARRY PRINTZ
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE



MCT
The 2016 Chevrolet Volt has an EPA rating of 106 mpg-e, 42 mpgNHTSA.

It's hard to speak of the 2016 Chevrolet Volt without mentioning the 2011 model, which was unfairly tarnished by charges of being a product of "government motors."

Ugh. Please.

Conspiracy theorists won't believe it, but the Volt was started by a pre-bankrupt General Motors under the Bush administration and was an attempt to leapfrog the Toyota Prius. Of course, cars like the Prius and Volt exist for one reason: the corporate average fuel economy standards that require automakers to achieve a 54.5-mpg fleet average by 2025.

And the Volt was, and is, visionary in concept, one that has survived its parent company's bankruptcy, numerous CEOs and unremarkable sales.

Given that the 2016 Volt's electric driveline travels 53 miles before a fossil fuel-powered engine steps in to extend the vehicle's range to a maximum of 420 miles, it's a product that fits in perfectly with the average American's daily commute. In theory, you can run the Volt, take it home and plug it in, recharge it, and not use the gas engine for weeks. And even if you need to go the distance, a recharge is as close as your gas station. This is where the Volt holds an edge over other electrified vehicles. After all, pure electric vehicles still take some time to recharge; the Volt takes a couple minutes.

While the Volt's system storage capacity has increased to 18.4 kilowatts, the number of cells has decreased from 288 to 192. In turn, the battery pack is 21 pounds lighter in a driveline that's 100 pounds lighter. This gives the car strong acceleration; 0-30 mph takes 2.6 seconds. Reaching 60 mph takes a bit longer: 8.4 seconds. Still, there's sufficient low-speed grunt for the cut and thrust of the daily boulevard Grand Prix.

Powering the Volt is a new aluminum-block, direct-injected 1.5-liter double-overhead-cam four-cylinder engine. It's rated at 101 horsepower, up from the 84 horsepower generated by the previous model's iron-block, port-injected 1.4-liter four. This leads to sparkling acceleration at lower speeds, and a combined fuel economy of 106 mpg equivalent in electric mode or 42 mpg in gas mode. In a more than 200 miles of driving, I averaged 117 mpg-e, 40 mpg in gas mode, and 50.3 combined gas and electric. Thankfully, unlike the previous model, the Volt takes regular unleaded, rather than premium.

If the Volt's overall efficiency and range has been improved, so has its refinement. Unlike the first generation Volt, it's hard to tell when the gas engine comes on; it's that smooth and silent. That said, there is some road and tire noise. Notably, the regenerative brakes, which capture energy generated by braking, have a more natural feel than systems used on most hybrids.

The new Volt is built using GM's Delta II architecture, which it shares with the new Chevrolet Cruze. The interior can conceivably hold five; four is the more practical limit, however.

The instrument panel is much more conventional in appearance than the model it replaces and is dominated by dual digital 8-inch color displays, one in front of the driver, the other atop the center console. Beneath the console screen are conventional climate controls, which are a welcome change from the old car's plastic capacitive switches.

Interior material quality is impressive, and the car has a solid, well-assembled feel.

The test car boasted two items every buyer should consider: heated seats and heated steering wheel. Given that blasting the heat can impact range, these items can help keep you warm while maintaining optimal fuel efficiency.

Spending time with the Volt lends insight into how great a solution the Volt is. Unlike with the Prius, most of the time you'll never use gasoline. And when you finally do, you won't use much.

Most folks have never given GM the credit it deserves for producing such a car, nor will they appreciate the technological know-how needed to achieve it. But GM has advanced the state of the art.

And while the Volt is simply a bridge technology to pure electric driving, such as the forthcoming all-electric Chevrolet Bolt, the 2016 Volt gives its owners peace of mind that a pure electric car never will. Not only will they will get to their destination without being stranded without power, they're being environmentally sound as well.

Larry Printz is automotive editor writer and editor in Burlington, Vt. Readers may send him email at TheDrivingPrintz@gmail.com.

NUTS & BOLTS

- Base prices: Starting at $33,170 (before $7,500 federal tax incentive)
- Engine: 1.5-liter DOHC four-cylinder
- Motor: 111-kilowatt twin electric motors
- Charging time (240 volts): 4.5 hours
- Wheelbase: 106.1 inches
- Length: 180.4 inches
- Cargo space: 10.6 cubic feet
- Curb weight: 3,543 pounds
- Environmental Protection Agency rating (combined): 106 mpg equivalent; 42 mpg
- National Highway Traffic Safety Administration safety rating: Not rated

MOTORING Q &A:

Corvette's key fobs won't work

By PAUL BRAND
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

Q: My 2006 Corvette key fobs work in every way except to start the car in a normal fashion. I have followed directions to reprogram the original fobs with no success. Shortly after I purchased the car, I started getting a "no key fobs detected" message on the driver information center panel. The vehicle starts when the fob is in the holder located in the glove box. When I follow reprogramming directions, the only thing that happens is the fobs become totally inoperative. To fix this, I disconnect the battery and then the fobs work, except to start the car the way it is designed. The local dealer tried twice with no luck. Most say the remote control door lock receiver is not the problem as the car starts with the fob in the glove box. Hope you can find an answer.

A: My automotive database pulled up a GM service bulletin that addresses this exact issue. It identifies a transistor in the remote control door lock receiver as the likely cause. To confirm this is the problem, sit in the vehicle with a known good fob—not in the glove box holder—and press the start button. If you hear only one click rather than several clicks, that pesky transistor in the door lock receiver is misbehaving. The solution is to replace the lock receiver located above the radio behind the trim on the right side.

Q: I need help diagnosing a problem with flickering dash lights and headlights on my 2005 Dodge Grand Caravan, which has 150,000 miles on it. The problem first occurred last fall. I had the alternator replaced, which appeared to fix the problem. A few days ago, though, the flickering started again. In both instances the problem started when the weather became colder. The battery is a year old.

A: Operating the heater blower motor, lighting system and rear window defroster during cold weather increases electrical demand from the battery and charging system. Some voltage fluctuation—the cause of the flickering—at low engine speeds with heavy electrical loads is not abnormal.

Having replaced the alternator may not have addressed the issue. The electronic voltage regulator is an integral part of the powertrain control module and is not a separate component. Alternator output is controlled by the voltage regulator monitoring voltage and regulating the alternator's field winding up to 250 times per second to reach a calculated target voltage. Any increased resistance in the charging system—battery, alternator or chassis ground connections—can cause voltage fluctuations. With an 11-year-old vehicle with that many miles on it, I'd start by cleaning and freshening any and all connections in the charging circuit.

But as long as the battery stays charged, the issue is relatively minor.

Q: I have a 2005 Buick LeSabre with almost 99,000 miles. The service engine light came on about a month ago. I cleaned up around the gas filler neck and put the cap back on again, but the light went off after a few starts. Within a couple weeks, the light reappeared and I brought the car to several auto parts stores and had a free analysis done, both of which came back with the following fault code: P0170. A Buick dealer came up with the same code, then removed the code and told me to drive it until it starts to run rough and then bring it back in. A family member recommended a friend that runs a car repair service shop. He changed the mass air flow sensor and sent me on my way. Two days later the service light reappeared again. Do you have any good ideas what is wrong?

A: The P0170 fault code is triggered when the fuel-air mixture is too lean on the first cylinder bank of the V-6 engine. Possible causes include a vacuum leak, faulty fuel injector or an incorrect signal from one of the oxygen sensors on that bank.

Life & Style

Oscars crown 'Spotlight' but diversity had the limelight

LOS ANGELES (AP)—In an underdog win for a movie about an underdog profession, the newspaper drama "Spotlight" took best picture Sunday at an Academy Awards riven by protest and outrage, and electrified by an unflinching Chris Rock.

Tom McCarthy's film about the Boston Globe's investigative reporting on sexual abuse by Roman Catholic priests won over the favored frontier epic "The Revenant." McCarthy's well-crafted procedural, led by a strong ensemble cast, had lagged in the lead-up to the Oscars, losing ground to the flashier filmmaking of Alejandro Inarritu's film.

But "Spotlight"—an ode to the hard-nose, methodical work of a journalism increasingly seldom practiced—took the night's top honor despite winning only one other Oscar for McCarthy and Josh Singer's screenplay. Such a sparsely-awarded best picture winner hasn't happened since 1952's "The Greatest Show On Earth."

"We would not be here today without the heroic efforts of our reporters," said producer Blye Pagon Faust. "Not only do they effect global change, but they absolutely show us the necessity for investigative journalism."

The night, however, belonged to host Rock, who launched immediately into the uproar over the lack of diversity in this year's nominees, and didn't let up. "The White People's Choice Awards," he called the Oscars, which were protested beforehand outside the Dolby Theatre by the Rev. Al Sharpton, and saw some viewers boycotting the broadcast.

Rock insured that the topic remained at the forefront throughout the evening, usually finding hearty laughs in the process. In an award show traditionally known for song-and-dance routines and high doses of glamour, Rock gave the 88th Academy Awards a charged atmosphere, keeping with the outcry that followed a second straight year of all-white acting nominees.

"Is Hollywood racist? You're damn right it's racist," said Rock. "Hollywood is sorority racist. It's like: We like you Rhonda, but you're not a Kappa."

Streaks, broken and extended, dominated much of the evening. After going home empty-handed four times previously, Leonardo DiCaprio won his first Oscar, for a best actor in "The Revenant"—a gruff, grunting performance that traded little on the actor's youthful charisma. DiCaprio, greeted with a standing ovation, took the moment to talk about climate change.

"Let us not take our planet for granted," said DiCaprio. "I do not take tonight for granted."

His director, Inarritu won back-to-back directing awards after the triumph last year of "Birdman." It's a feat matched by only two other filmmak-

See OSCARS on Page 20

AP

Nicole Rocklin, from left, Michael Sugar, Blye Pagon Faust, Steve Golin, and cast and crew of "Spotlight" accept the award for best picture for "Spotlight" at the Oscars on Sunday, Feb. 28, 2016, at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles.

List of 88th annual Academy Award winners

List of winners at Sunday's 88th annual Academy Awards presented by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

Best Picture: "Spotlight."
Actor: Leonardo DiCaprio, "The Revenant."
Actress: Brie Larson, "Room."
Supporting Actor: Mark Rylance, "Bridge of Spies."
Supporting Actress: Alicia Vikander, "The Danish Girl."
Directing: Alejandro G. Inarritu, "The Revenant."
Foreign Language Film: "Son of Saul."
Adapted Screenplay: "The Big Short."
Original Screenplay: "Spotlight."
Animated Feature Film: "Inside Out."
Production Design: "Mad Max: Fury Road."
Cinematography: "The Revenant."
Sound Mixing: "Mad Max: Fury Road."
Sound Editing: "Mad Max: Fury Road."
Original Score: "The Hateful Eight."
Original Song: "Writing's on the Wall" from "Spectre."
Costume Design: "Mad Max: Fury Road."
Documentary Feature: "Amy."
Documentary (short subject): "A Girl in the River: The Price of Forgiveness."
Film Editing: "Mad Max: Fury Road."
Makeup and Hairstyling: "Mad Max: Fury Road."
Animated Short Film: "Bear Story."
Live Action Short Film: "Stutterer."
Visual Effects: "Ex Machina."*(AP)*

IN CELEBRATION OF HER NEW LIFE

Delfina C. Babauta

Lovingly known as ***Del***
October 16, 1956 – February 23, 2016

In her new life, she now joins her:

Maternal Grandparents:	†Maria San Nicolas Camacho †Juan Muna Camacho
Paternal Grandparents:	†Rufina Lizama Babauta †Joaquin Cruz Babauta
Parents:	†Juana C. Babauta †Felix L. Babauta
Husband:	†William S. Salas, Sr.
Brother:	†Juan C. Babauta
Nephew:	†Jonathan Torres Babauta
Grand-niece:	†Eriana Dela Cruz Sablan
Brother In-Law:	†Thomas S. Basa, Sr.
Son In-Law:	†Raymond T. Duenas

Her Memories will forever live in the hearts of her

Step-Mother:	Araceli A. Babauta
Common-Law Husband:	Alfredo L. Saures
Children:	William B. Salas, Jr. (Jada) Alvin B. Salas (Scarlett Shae) Jocelyn B. Salas (Vincent, Joyvilyn, Steven & Raymond) Robert B. Salas/Victoria C. Cepeda (Nathan, Honeyka, Ha'ane, Hannah & Ha'leya) Karen B. Oco/Nelson A. Aguilar (Nelena, Karleen & Kourtney) Kurt Deon B. Oco/Keesha Lynn C. Sablan (Brycin)
Reared Children:	Alfred Kelvin A. Saures/Denise Cabrera (Ire Jade, Irie Joy, Zion & Izie) Jefferson Alfred A. Saures/Raquel O. Saures (Nathaniel Jefferson) Sunshine A. Saures/John T. Santos (Damien Deon & Devine)
Brothers, Sisters & In-Laws:	Susana C. Babauta-Basa & †Thomas S. Basa, Sr. and Family Maria B. Diaz & Romeo A. Diaz and Family †Juan C. Babauta & Bernadeth Ann O. Babauta and Family Jose C. Babauta & Maria T. Babauta and Family Melvia B. Concepcion & Vicente A. Concepcion and Family Serafin C. Babauta & Juanita M. Babauta and Family Lucia B. Mafnas & Diego C. Mafnas and Family Rebecca B. Dela Cruz & Ramon S. Dela Cruz and Family Barbara C. Babauta & Joseph T. Santos and Family Michelle A. Babauta and Family Doreen A. Babauta Kenneth A. Babauta

She will also be missed by numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

Nightly Mass of Intentions are being offered at San Roque Church at 6:00 pm followed by the Holy Rosary.

Funeral Services will be held on Wednesday, March 2nd, 2016. Her remains will be escorted from Borja Funeral Home at 7:30 a.m. to San Roque Church. Responso Service will commence upon her arrival and followed by the Holy Rosary, viewing and last respects. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. Interment Services will be at San Roque Cemetery, where she will be at a peaceful rest.

Please join us in prayers.

The Family

Fifth time's the Oscar charm for best actor DiCaprio

LOS ANGELES (AP) —After five nominations, Leonardo DiCaprio finally got his Oscar. And he couldn't resist sharing it with planet Earth.

The environmentally minded actor, who was honored Sunday as best actor for "The Revenant," split his acceptance speech between lauding colleagues including his Oscar-winning director, Alejandro Inarritu, and calling for action to combat global warming.

"Climate change is real. It is happening right now," DiCaprio said. "It is the most urgent threat facing our entire species, and we need to work collectively together and stop procrastinating. We need to support leaders around the world who do not speak for the big polluters or the big corporations" but for all people.

DiCaprio was the Oscar front-runner for his portrayal of frontiersman Hugh Glass in the revenge tale. His first acting nod, for a supporting role, came in 1994 for "What's Eating Gilbert Grape," followed by lead actor nominations for "The Aviator," ''Blood Diamond" and "The Wolf of Wall Street."

It was Inarritu who finally brought him Oscar gold. The Mexican filmmaker himself had a big night, winning his second consecutive director trophy after last year's honor for "Birdman."

"As the history of cinema unfolds, you have forged your way into history these past two years. What an unbelievable talent you are," DiCaprio said of the Mexican director.

He also reached back to his past to recognize others including Martin Scorsese, who directed him in several films including "Wolf" and "The Aviator."

The director taught "me so much about the cinematic art form," DiCaprio said.

Backstage, the actor was asked about the pre-Oscar support for him, including on social media.

"It all feels incredibly surreal," he said.

Picking up the climate-change issue again, DiCaprio said he is as obsessed with the issue as he is with filmmaking, and appreciated having the chance to reach millions of Oscar viewers with his message.

"I feel so overwhelmed with gratitude for what happened tonight, but I feel there is a ticking clock out there" demanding action, he said. He's working on a documentary that has taken him around the world and put him contact with experts on the subject.

He called on voters to support leaders who recognize the peril, not those who deny science and are on what he called "the wrong side of history."

AP

Leonardo DiCaprio poses in the press room with the award for best actor in a leading role for "The Revenant" at the Oscars on Sunday, Feb. 28, 2016, at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles.

Brie Larson finds her voice and best-actress Oscar in 'Room'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Brie Larson's journey to winning a best-actress Oscar for "Room" began years ago when she learned to stand up for herself against casting directors who wanted to objectify her.

They'd tell her she had auditioned well, but asked her to come back wearing a denim miniskirt and heels.

"I personally always rejected that moment," Larson said backstage Sunday night. "They were asking me to wear a jean miniskirt and heels to be sexy, but that doesn't make me feel sexy. It makes me feel uncomfortable."

Asked how she felt now, a smiling Larson thrust her statue in the air and replied, "Feeling pretty good."

Larson won for her role as an abducted woman who creates a world inside a small shed for her son and then finds it difficult to adjust to life after she is freed.

"This time a year ago I was still trying to figure out who I was," she said. "I had spent about a year prepping and then doing the film. Who I was when the movie was over was so far from what I was before the movie. I'm standing here now completely myself. I feel very strong and happy to be holding this gold guy."

Larson was the heavy favorite to win the Oscar, having earned trophies for the role from the Golden Globes, Screen Actors Guild and British Academy of Film and Television Arts.

Born Brianne Desaulniers in Sacramento, California, Larson broke into show business doing sketches on "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno." Before finding success on the big screen, the 26-year-old appeared in several television series and dabbled in music, releasing her major label debut in 2005.

Larson joined 27-year-old Swede Alicia Vikander as the youngest acting winners Sunday. Vikander won supporting honors for "The Danish Girl." Both women won on their first nominations.

AP

Brie Larson poses in the press room with the award for best actress in a leading role for "Room" at the Oscars on Sunday, Feb. 28, 2016, at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles.

OSCARS

From Page 19

ers: John Ford and Joseph L. Mankiewicz. "The Revenant" also won best cinematography for Emmanuel Lubezki, who became the first cinematographer to win three times in a row (following wins for "Gravity" and "Birdman"), and only the seventh to three-peat in Oscar history.

Inarritu, whose win meant three straight years of Mexican filmmakers winning best director, was one of the few winners to remark passionately on diversity in his acceptance speech.

"What a great opportunity for our generation to really liberate ourselves from all prejudice and this tribal thinking and to make sure for once and forever that the color of our skin becomes as irrelevant as the length of our hair," said Inarritu.

The night's most-awarded film, however, went to neither "Spotlight" nor "The Revenant." George Miller's post-apocalyptic chase film, "Mad Max: Fury Road" sped away with six awards in technical categories for editing, makeup, production design, sound editing, sound mixing and costume design.

"Us Mad Maxes are doing OK tonight," said editor Margaret Sixel, who's married to Miller. The flurry of wins brought a parade of Australian craftsmen onstage in an Oscars that was at least internationally diverse.

Best actress went to Brie Larson, the 26-year-old breakout of the mother-son captive drama "Room." The Sweden-born Alicia Vikander took best supporting actress for the transgender pioneer tale "The Danish Girl."

But the wins at times felt secondary to the sharp, unflinching host. Rock confessed that he deliberated over joining the Oscars boycott and bowing out as host, but concluded: "The last thing I need is to lose another job to Kevin Hart."

Gasps went around the Dolby when Mark Rylance won best supporting actor over Sylvester Stallone. Nominated a second time for role of Rocky Balboa 39 years later, Stallone had been expected to win his first acting Oscar for the "Rocky" sequel "Creed." But the famed stage actor who co-starred in Steven Spielberg's "Bridge of Spies" won instead.

Adam McKay and Charles Randolph took best adapted screenplay for their self-described "trauma-dy," ''The Big Short," about the mortgage meltdown of 2008. Best known for broader comedies like "Anchorman" and "Step Brothers," McKay gave an election-year warning of the sway of "big money" and "weirdo billionaires" in the presidential campaign.

Talk of election was otherwise largely absent the ceremony, though Vice President Joe Biden (whose presence added even greater security to the Dolby Theatre) was met by a standing ovation before talking about sexual assault on college campuses in an introduction to best-song nominee Lady Gaga.

The composer John Williams ("Star Wars: The Force Awakens," which went away empty-handed despite being the biggest box-office hit of the decade) came in with his 50th nod, but lost to Ennio Morricone, who, at 87, landed his first competitive Oscar for Quentin Tarantino's "The Hateful Eight." (He was given an honorary one in 2009.)

Sam Smith and songwriting partner Jimmy Napes picked up the Academy Award for best song for "Writing's on the Wall," from the James Bond film "Spectre."

Chris Rock brings diversity issue front and center at Oscars

By JOCELYN NOVECK
AP NATIONAL WRITER

With deft timing and an impactful blend of humor and searing commentary, host Chris Rock took the bull by the horns at the Oscars, attacking the diversity crisis roiling the industry and not letting go all night long.

Rock didn't merely acknowledge the elephant in the room. From his first words to his farewell remarks, he brought it stage front and center, and kept it there.

"I counted at least 15 black people in that montage!" he said of the opening film clips.

He went on to call the Oscars the "White People's Choice Awards," and noted that if they had nominated potential hosts, "I wouldn't have this job. You'd all be watching Neil Patrick Harris right now."

He was referring, of course, to the fact that every acting nominee was white for the second year running, a development that led to the OscarsSoWhite backlash. It also led the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences to announce sweeping changes meant to increase diversity in its membership - changes that the academy's president, Cheryl Boone Isaacs, made reference to as she called on the industry to join in creating change.

AP

Host Chris Rock speaks at the Oscars on Sunday, Feb. 28, 2016, at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles.

"With opportunity comes responsibility," Boone Isaacs said. "It's not enough to just listen and agree. We must take action."

Rock, in some of his lighter comments, joked about the people who'd urged him to boycott the awards show.

"How come it's only unemployed people that tell you to quit something?" he asked, and also cracked a few barbs at the expense of Jada Pinkett Smith and her husband Will Smith, who opted not to attend the show. Maybe it wasn't fair that Smith hadn't been nominated for best actor for "Concussion," he said, but it also wasn't fair that he earned $20 million for "Wild Wild West."

In some of his edgier remarks, Rock wondered why there hadn't been protests back in the '60s, when surely there were years with no black nominees. "Why? Because we had real things to protest," he said. "We were too busy being raped and lynched to care about who won best cinematographer."

And he quipped that this year's in-memoriam package was "just going to be black people shot by the cops on the way to the movies."

Turning more philosophical, he asked: "Is Hollywood racist? You're damn right Hollywood is racist. But it's not the racist you've grown accustomed to. Hollywood is sorority racist. It's like, 'We like you, Rhonda, but you're not a Kappa.'" And he added: "We want opportunity. We want the black actors to get the same opportunities. Not just once. Leo (DiCaprio) gets a great part every year. All you guys get great parts all the time."

The diversity issue wasn't limited to Rock's opening monologue. In one of the best of several comic bits sprinkled through the show, actress Angela Bassett offered a "Black History Month Minute" paying tribute to a "black" actor—the very white Jack Black.

In a joke montage, gags were inserted into some of this year's movies. In one, Rock himself was an astronaut left up on Mars, a la Matt Damon in "The Martian." But this time, Jeff Daniels and Kristen Wiig at NASA debated bringing him back and decided not to, since it would cost 2,500 "white dollars."

7 memorable Oscars moments

By FRAZIER MOORE
AP TELEVISION WRITER

A few moments we'll be talking about from Sunday's Oscarcast the day after:

A LITTLE HELP FROM DAD:

Host Chris Rock gave his daughters a boost with their Girl Scout Cookie sales by dispatching a team of Los Angeles-area Girl Scouts through the Dolby Theatre selling cookies to the gathered glitterati. An unfair advantage bestowed by a famous father? Sure, but you'd do the same for your kid if you could. And those enterprising girls collected a quick $65,243.00 for a good cause.

A DIFFERENT GROUP OF FILM FANS:

It's useful to recall that every moviegoer doesn't glom onto - or even pay attention to - the films recognized by the Academy. To demonstrate that simple truth, Rock, in a pretaped feature, visited a movie house in Compton, California, where black moviegoers seemed mostly oblivious to the films nominated for this year's Oscars. Among their own favorites: a film conspicuously overlooked by the Academy, "Straight Outta Compton."

THERE MUST HAVE BEEN A POINT, BUT WHAT?:

Many viewers had to be puzzled by a fleeting appearance by actress and conservative Fox News personality Stacey Dash, who was jokingly introduced by Rock as director of the Oscar's minority outreach program. Dash strode onstage to say, "I cannot wait to help my people out. Happy Black History Month!" Suggested assignment: Discuss among yourselves the intended point of the joke, which laid an egg with the audience.

HE WOULD NOT BE THWARTED:

Alejandro G. Inarritu had an important point to make about inclusiveness ("to really liberate ourselves from all prejudice and this tribal thinking"), and he meant to make it during his acceptance remarks as best director for the survival epic "The Revenant." Boldly he pushed through the rude hurry-up music, with its intimating chosen tune: Wagner's "Ride of the Valkyries."

A STANDING O AND A PLEA TO SAVE THE PLANET:

After four past nominations, Leonardo DiCaprio finally scored an Oscar as best actor for his performance in "The Revenant." He was hailed with a standing ovation, after which he made an impassioned plea for everyone to take action against climate change during possibly the night's most stirring acceptance speech.

WELL-INTENTIONED, BUT WRONG:

Sam Smith received his best-song Oscar for "Writing's on the Wall" (from "Spectre") by citing an article he said claimed that no openly gay man had ever won an Oscar before him. He was mistaken about that, but it didn't undermine his call for everyone to "stand together as equals one day."

THAT'S WHAT GOOGLE IS FOR:

Jared Leto's tossed-off mention of the term "merkin" (with a sidelong glance at Margot Robbie, his fellow presenter for best production design) may have drawn a blank with many viewers. Those among them who flocked to search engines (or even a dictionary) swiftly learned that a merkin is, um, a pubic wig. The next step for many of those curious souls: un-learning what a merkin is.

Depressed pregnant wife is confined by abusive husband

DEAR ABBY: I'm 39 and seven months' pregnant with my husband's only child. Since becoming pregnant, I have become somewhat withdrawn due to depression. My doctor prescribed Paxil, but my husband won't allow me to take it. I don't leave the house unless I absolutely need to because he accuses me of cheating on him daily.

Two nights ago he took a single female friend out to dinner and they were gone for five hours. It hurt my feelings because in my view it was disrespectful on both their parts. When they got back, I was sitting outside and she wouldn't even come to say goodbye to me. When I asked my husband why I hadn't been invited, he said, "Neither of us wanted you there."

In his eyes he has done nothing wrong. He tells me I'm crazy and I need mental help. Am I wrong for being so upset?

NOT CRAZY IN TEXAS

DEAR NOT CRAZY: Not at all. It appears you are married to a controlling, emotionally abusive man who may be cheating on you. One of the hallmarks of philanderers is that they will accuse the innocent partner of cheating. Feeling depressed during a pregnancy under these circumstances isn't surprising. (If you felt any other way, you WOULDN'T be normal.)

That your doctor would prescribe an antidepressant and your husband would "not allow" you to take it is alarming. If you have close friends and family, I urge you to tell them what's going on. And while you're at it, contact The National Domestic Violence Hotline (thehotline.org)—the phone number is 1-800-799-7233—because you may need help to get safely away.

DEAR ABBY: I currently live in a situation where my husband, our two kids and I share a home with my parents, two sisters and younger brother. Sometimes it seems crowded because there is no privacy and a lack of respect.

Lately I am having a problem with my sister. Despite the fact that she and my family share the upstairs level of the home, she continues to walk around nude or in her undergarments throughout the day because she "hates" wearing clothes. At various times my family members and I have had uncomfortable encounters with her over this. I have talked to her about it repeatedly, but she refuses to cooperate.

I think it's rude, inconsiderate and inappropriate, not to mention a completely avoidable problem. What do you think? Am I wrong for being upset that her behavior doesn't change and the message doesn't seem to get through to her?

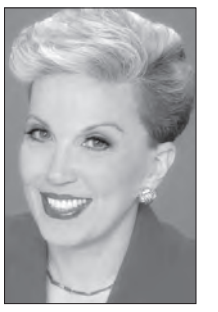
CLOTHES-MINDED

DEAR CLOTHES-MINDED: I agree that your sister's behavior is inappropriate. She should not be parading around in a state of undress in front of your husband and children. Because she has chosen to ignore your requests, enlist the help of your parents to get the message across to her. It's their roof she's under, and perhaps they will have better luck.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

I CAN'T GET A BABY SITTER ANYWHERE! WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
WE WON'T BE GONE LONG. COULDN'T CALVIN BE LEFT FOR A COUPLE HOURS UNSUPERVISED?
HA HA HA HA
HO HO HEE HEE
..SERIOUSLY... WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
HEE HEE

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

THIS IS THE LIFE, GUMBO.
CHILLING WITH MAN'S BEST FRIEND... BINGEING OLD "TWILIGHT ZONE" EPISODES...
...ACTIVELY IGNORING THE ULCER-FORMING DEADLINE GNAWING AWAY AT MY GUT.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Slender
5 Architect I.M. —
8 Tries the tea
12 Green land
13 Rainbow
14 Exam format
15 Austen heroine
16 Card game with a pegboard
18 Chump change
20 Get more magazines
21 Connections
22 — tai
23 Wild West show
26 Cozy house
30 "A Chorus Line" song
31 "Caught ya!"
32 Witty one
33 Corned beef go-with
36 Yo-Yo Ma's instrument
38 Gallery display
39 Speck
40 Caper
43 Society for birders
47 Punic Wars city
49 As called for
50 Duel tool
51 Web address
52 Perry's creator
53 Feeder filler
54 Cooking fuel
55 Lovers' quarrel

DOWN
1 Leak out slowly
2 Rickey flavor
3 "— la Douce"
4 Ogre
5 Treaties
6 Messes up
7 Here (Fr.)
8 "Amen!"
9 Persia, today
10 Senate aide
11 Dispatched
17 Nanny's headache
19 Popular card game
22 Extinct New Zealander
23 Sinbad's bird
24 Stop — dime
25 Society newbie
26 "Evita" narrator
27 Piercing tool
28 Cowboy's sweetie
29 Id counterpart
31 Sales rep.
34 Lured with worms
35 Foot part
36 Hake's relative
37 Chopin pieces
39 One-on-one battles
40 Experts
41 Scruff
42 Genealogy chart
43 Taj Mahal city
44 Baby-feeding finale
45 — podrida
46 Russian refusal
48 Calendar abbr.

Solution time: 22 mins.

J	A	M	B		M	C	W		C	P	A	S
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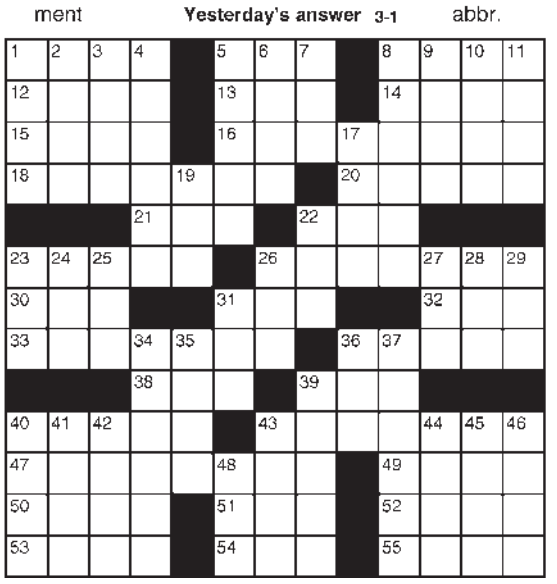
Yesterday's answer 3-1



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Justin Bieber, 22; Javier Bardem, 47; Ron Howard, 62; Alan Thicke, 69.

Happy Birthday: Be willing to listen and accept the inevitable. Show strength and courage regardless of what others do or say. Discipline will see you through any challenge you face. Choose to be creative instead of indulgent. Practicality and common sense with regard to health, wealth and love will help you gain steadily throughout the year and achieve the happiness you deserve. Your numbers are 9, 16, 23, 34, 37, 42, 46.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Take your place at the top where you belong. Show everyone what you have to offer. Dig in and don't stop until you are satisfied with your performance. A personal victory will require a celebration with someone you love. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Look for opportunities through people you have worked with in the past. Someone you thought was gone from your life forever will surprise you. Protect your money and possessions. Now is not the time to take a risk. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Stay one step ahead of the competition. Observe what everyone else is doing and be ready to step up your game and outsmart anyone who messes with you. Your charm and intelligence will make someone jealous. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): You'll learn something valuable from someone who comes from a different background than you. You will be able to improve your relationships with others and your domestic environment if you are open to change and compromise. Let your imagination lead the way. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Pick up the pace, but don't be too quick to part with your money. The more you can do for yourself, the easier it will be on your bank account. A serious suggestion involving someone you fancy will improve your relationship. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Start a conversation with someone you find innovative. Together you will come up with a plan that can turn into a prosperous joint venture. Putting in hard work on a demanding project will pay off. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Go after what you want. Laziness will make you look bad and will not bring about the change you long for. Get with it and make things happen. Your charm and intellectual appeal will help you persuade others to pitch in and help. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Keep your opinion to yourself or you might regret it. Spend your time doing something creative that encourages you to get out with friends who enjoy the same activities or events as you. Don't pick a fight. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Be careful when dealing with someone who is trying to manipulate your emotions. Make changes at home that will improve your life and encourage you to take on projects that will result in more comfort and convenience. Romance will enhance your life. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Offer help when it is deserved. Don't get sucked into doing something that will only prolong the inevitable. Use common sense and be prepared to walk away from any deal or request that will leave you at a loss. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): A change in how you earn your living or handle your money is favored. Don't be afraid to walk away from a bad situation or a poor influence. Take control of your life and market your skills. Love is highlighted. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Negotiations aren't likely to go in your favor. Bide your time and assess your situation. Preparation, along with gathering inside information, will be key to help you present what you'd like to see unfold. Don't sell yourself short. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are adaptable, aggressive and persuasive. You are unpredictable and trendy.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

3	4							8
					8			5
		8	9				7	
			4				5	9
6		9		5		3		2
4	8				2			
	3				7	5		
1			2					
9							1	4

Difficulty Level ★★ 3/01

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

4	6	9	1	2	8	7	5	3
1	8	7	3	5	6	2	4	9
3	2	5	4	9	7	6	8	1
6	7	3	9	4	2	5	1	8
2	4	8	5	6	1	3	9	7
5	9	1	8	7	3	4	6	2
7	1	4	6	3	9	8	2	5
8	5	2	7	1	4	9	3	6
9	3	6	2	8	5	1	7	4

Difficulty Level ★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

HIGH-FIVES **Solution: 7 letters**

O	T	S	O	O	B	A	S	K	E	T	B	A	L	L
R	C	O	N	Q	U	E	R	O	C	S	F	L	Y	T
E	G	N	W	O	D	V	M	L	A	P	A	L	S	C
H	Z	H	A	N	D	I	E	S	T	O	S	E	A	A
H	A	I	L	S	I	G	T	N	G	U	C	V	(N)	T
E	T	A	R	B	E	L	E	C	O	N	A	O	(U)	N
T	U	R	E	P	S	L	O	E	A	S	I	L	(F)	O
A	R	A	C	E	A	A	N	M	E	P	R	L	E	C
M	Y	T	C	T	C	A	R	R	M	O	F	E	C	R
L	R	R	O	H	T	O	E	A	A	R	I	Y	N	E
O	O	I	S	L	F	E	H	H	G	T	V	B	E	N
O	T	U	U	R	H	C	C	C	E	S	E	A	I	T
H	C	M	E	C	P	R	A	I	S	E	D	L	D	R
C	I	P	L	L	A	B	E	S	A	B	I	L	U	A
S	V	H	S	M	A	E	T	U	L	A	S	S	A	P

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Air Five, Audience, Baseball, Basketball, Boost, Buddies, Celebrate, Champion, Charm, Cheer, Coach, Conquer, Contact, Down, Flat, Fun, Game, Give, Goal, Hails, Hand, Hero, Palm, Partner, Pass, Performance, Praise, Prize, Race, Salute, Schoolmate, Score, Side, Simultaneously, Slap, Soccer, Sports, Talent, Teacher, Teams, Triumph, Victory, Volleyball

Yesterday's Answer: Apple

To purchase **THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45 or 46**, order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contains 43 puzzles.)

CLASSIFIED ADS

EMPLOYMENT

(2) Bookkeeper, (8) Houseworker, (2) Computer Support Specialist. Minimum Salary. Mail resume to MTO Maintenance (Saipan), Inc. at P.O. Box 504053, Saipan, MP 96950.

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
B & J Corporation dba: Dive Y2K

Scuba Diving Instructor

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Interested applicants, send resume to:
divequester@hotmail.com

Job Vacancy Announcement

Rong Hua Corporation dba: O2 Spa

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3 years' experience - Salary $6.05/hr
Speaking Japanese, Chinese, and English preferred.

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- (20) Carpenters
- (20) Masons
- (10) Painters
- (10) Electricians
- (10) Steel Workers-Welders
- (10) Plumbers
- (04) Heavy Equipment Operators
- (10) Building Maintenance Repairers
- (03) AC Technicians
- (02) Landscapers

Two years experience required and must be certified Police Clearance Required

Local applicants are encouraged to apply - Please call 235-5238 or visit our office in Chalan Kanoa.
Email: misamisconstruction@yahoo.com

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Job Vacancy Announcement

(1) Administrative Assistant
- Must have at least 3 years experience.
- Able to work flexible hours.
- Must have a driver's license.

(1) Funeral Service Assistant
- Must have a driver's license.
- Able to work flexible hours.
- Good personality.

All interested applicants must apply in person.
Cabrera Center Bldg., Beach Road, Garapan

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB16-DLNR/DFW-057 (A) (B)

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: MARCH 10, 2016 **TIME: 10:00 A.M.**

"BOAT CHARTER TRANSPORATION, A PROJECT UNDER THE DLNR-DIVISION OF FISH & WILDLIFE"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

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/S/ RICHARD B. SEMAN
SECRETARY OF DLNR

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

CTSI Logistics is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

Cargo and Freight Agent (1)
Associate's Degree with a minimum of 2 years experience in a logistics, freight brokerage or warehouse services business. Must know how to operate a forklift with certification. Must be able to do strenuous work with some lifting and carrying of small items on the job. Licensed to drive 4x6 wheel closed vans and must have obtained training or certification in handling hazardous materials, Occupational Safety, Hazardous Waste Operation and IAC CCSF authorized screener. Must be proficient in MS Office and Oracle-based programs and available to work on evenings and weekend hours.

A pre-employment drug testing will be required. Salaries will be commensurate with qualification and experience. For applications to be considered, they should submit resume / application to CTSI Logistics, Lower Base not later than March 11, 2016.

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- Must Pass NCLEX-RN w/current CNMI RN License
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- One to two years hemodialysis experience or related field
- English language skills-proficient in verbal, written and comprehension
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Interested applicants must submit application or resume to St. Jude Renal Care Facility Inc., at Chalan Kiya, Saipan. Deadline to submit an application will be on Thursday, March 17, 2016 at 4:00pm. For more information, please contact (670) 234-2901 ext. 128.

K.L. CARR ENTERPRISES
P.O. Box 502535, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: 670-323-2428
Email: klcarrenterprises.2014@yahoo.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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Salary Offered: $15.00/hour
Job Description: Prepares, examines, or analyzes accounting records, financial statements, or other financial reports to assess accuracy, completeness, and conformance to reporting and procedural standards; Reports to management regarding the finances of establishment; Develops, implements, modifies, and documents recordkeeping and accounting systems; Computes taxes owed and prepare tax returns, ensuring compliance with payment, reporting or other tax requirements; Oversees day-to-day activities of office, accounting, shop, as well as field workers; Reviews contracts, project billing, and change orders prepared by other staff and counter check figures prior to finalizing and submission to contract owner; Prepares and generates end of month reports, maintains record keeping and prepares accounts for management information; Prepares annual tax reconciliation, budget, and attend to audit.

Minimum Qualifications: With a college degree of Bachelor of Science in Business Administration (Major in Accounting). With at least 7 years of relevant work experience as an Accountant or Auditor.

Place of Employment: Successful candidate will be assigned to work in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

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Office Address: Chalan Pale Arnold, Tanapag, Saipan, CNMI
Phone: 670-323-2428
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This position is responsible for servicing, diagnosing, repairing and installing motors, parts, and general components of a "Utility Terrain Vehicle" (UTV).

Essential Job Functions:
Assures vehicles are repaired in a timely and accurate manner by performing the necessary diagnostics and trouble shooting, consulting with supervisor and manager when necessary. Moves vehicles around interior or exterior of the buildings. Assists in loading and unloading of passengers when needed. Assists in tour guide/driving functions when needed.

Requirements:
4+ years of experience in auto mechanics

Hiring preference is given to those with solid mechanical knowledge and at least 2 years of experience in the power sports (Motorcycles/ATV's/UTV's/Jetskis/Boats) industry.

Interested applicants may send their applications to hr_Int@tanholdings.com To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than March 11th, 2016. Applications for Employment are available at the Human Resources Department located at the 2nd floor of the JP Center Building along Beach Road or at the Century Tours office at Kanoa Resort. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

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Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

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Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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Wizards rip LeBron-less Cavaliers, 113-99

WASHINGTON (AP)—That the Cleveland Cavaliers would drop a road game against a would-be playoff team while giving LeBron James a rare day off might not be all that surprising to most.

Still, trailing by as many as 30 points along the way to a 113-99 loss to John Wall and the Washington Wizards on Sunday did not sit well with Cleveland's J.R. Smith.

"If we're going to play with a lack of energy ... and come out and play the way we did today," Smith declared, "we shouldn't be who we are and be in these uniforms."

Smith, who had eight points and four rebounds in 18 minutes, continued: "We can't play basketball like this going down the stretch. ... You talk about contending or being a championship contender and you're blown out ... and get thrashed, make it look good at the end. We can't do that. If we're serious about who we're supposed to be, we can't do this."

It was the second consecutive loss for Eastern Conference-leading Cleveland, which is in the middle of a stretch of three games in four days.

That busy schedule was one of the reasons coach Tyronn Lue gave for resting James, who had skipped only one other game this season, on Dec. 5 at Miami.

"Any time you (make) that kind of move, it kind of lets the guys down a little bit," Lue said. "But that's a decision that we made."

James left the locker room without speaking to the media.

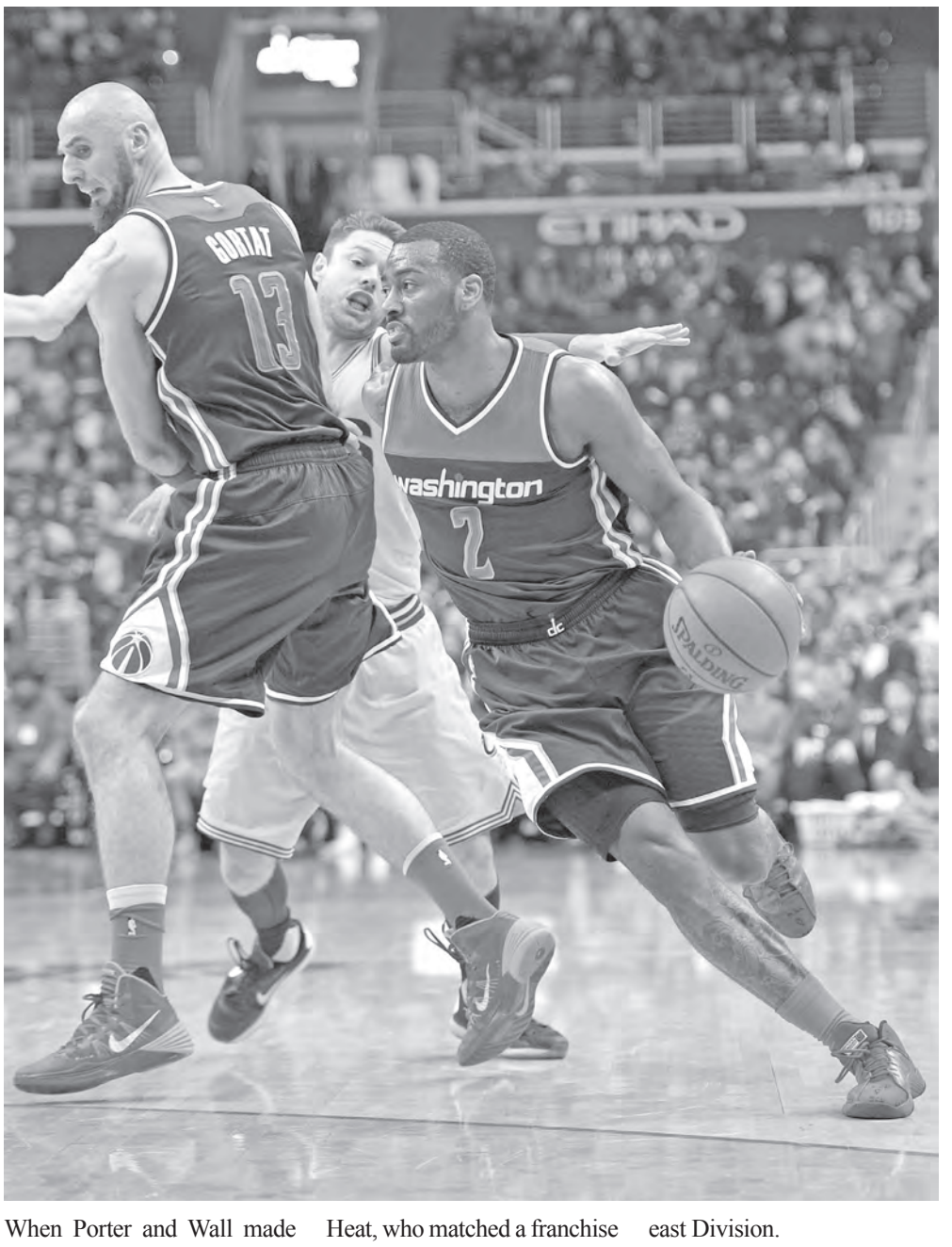
Taking advantage of not having to deal with the four-time NBA MVP, the Wizards got a boost in their bid to move into playoff position, using Wall's 21 points, 13 assists and seven rebounds, and 21 points from Otto Porter Jr., to improve to 5-2 since the All-Star break.

"Doesn't matter (if) they want to rest guys," Wizards coach Randy Wittman said. "This game still counts."

Attacking from the start, Wall made 8 of 11 shots and came out on top in his matchup against Kyrie Irving, who had 28 points and six assists on 9-of-20 shooting.

Late in the third quarter, Wall had the same number of assists as the entire Cavs team, 12; he sat out the fourth quarter.

Ahead by nine at halftime, the Wizards broke things open with a 9-0 run to start the second half, taking a 72-54 lead on one of Porter's four 3-pointers in the third quarter.



AP

Washington Wizards guard John Wall (2) dribbles the ball past Cleveland Cavaliers guard Matthew Dellavedova, center, during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Sunday, Feb. 28, 2016, in Washington. Also seen is Washington Wizards center Marcin Gortat (13), of Poland. The Wizards won, 113-99.

When Porter and Wall made consecutive 3s later, Washington's margin grew to 88-63, and that was pretty much that.

While the Cavaliers entered the day 41-16 and two games ahead of Toronto for the top spot in the East, the Wizards came in with a 27-30 record and 10th in the conference, 2 1/2 games out of the final playoff berth.

After alternating wins and losses in its previous five games, but now as healthy as it's been all season, Washington showcased the small-ball style it's been implementing. Wall cemented his 34th double-double midway through the third quarter.

"It starts with John, there's no question," Wittman said. "He's been locked in here, more recently."

Miami 98, Knicks 81

In New York, Dwyane Wade scored 26 points, Joe Johnson made a 3-pointer on his first shot in a Heat uniform during a big game-opening run, and Miami beat New York.

Johnson was in the starting lineup a day after signing with the Heat and contributed to their 13-2 burst to start the game, a lead they never relinquished.

Hassan Whiteside added 16 points and 11 rebounds for the Heat, who matched a franchise record with their fifth straight victory in New York. Luol Deng scored 15 points and Johnson finished with 12.

Carmelo Anthony scored 25 points for the Knicks, who have lost 14 of 17. Robin Lopez had 14 points and 14 rebounds.

Miami had dropped two in a row but made a nice pickup during that stretch Saturday with the signing of Johnson, a seven-time All-Star who had been waived by Brooklyn.

Hawks 87, Hornets 76

In Atlanta, Kent Bazemore scored 14 points and Al Horford had 13 points and tied a season high with 16 rebounds to help Atlanta beat Charlotte.

Marvin Williams finished with 16 points and Jeremy Lin scored 15 for Charlotte, which trailed the entire game. The Hornets were trying to be the first Charlotte team since 1996-97 to win eight games in February.

They pulled within two with 7 minutes left but couldn't rally after scoring a season-worst nine points in the first quarter.

The Hawks ended a disappointing five-game home stand with two straight wins to pull two games ahead of third-place Charlotte in the Southeast Division.

Mavericks 128, Timberwolves 101

In Dallas, Chandler Parsons scored 29 points and Dallas started fast in its first game since getting booed by the home crowd during a bad opening half, beating Minnesota.

Parsons scored 13 straight Dallas points in a stretch covering the second and third quarters to help the Mavericks restore a 20-point lead they built in the first 11 minutes of their sixth straight victory against Minnesota.

Two nights after scoring 27 points to help Dallas rally from 23 down in the second quarter of an overtime victory against Denver, Parsons was 10 of 15 from the field, made four of seven from 3-point range and hit all five of his free throws.

Shabazz Muhammad scored 24 points to lead the Timberwolves.

Trail Blazers 111, Pacers 102

In Indianapolis, Damian Lillard had 33 points and five rebounds to lead Portland to a victory over Indiana.

CJ McCollumn and Gerald Henderson each scored 19 points for the Trail Blazers, who have won eight of nine games.

Monta Ellis had 18 points and Jordan Hill added 15 off the bench for the Pacers, who have lost three of four games.

Meyers Leonard made a 3-pointer at the buzzer to give the Trail Blazers an 87-77 at the end of the third quarter. Then Leonard opened the fourth with a basket and two 3-pointers, including one to give Portland a 95-79 lead with 10:16 remaining.

Pistons 114, Raptors 101

In Auburn Hills, Andre Drummond had 15 points and 18 rebounds, and Detroit Pistons took advantage of Kyle Lowry's absence to beat Toronto.

Lowry sat out for the first time all season because the Raptors wanted to rest him after a 43-point performance against Cleveland on Friday. Detroit (31-29) won its fourth straight game and moved into a virtual tie with Charlotte (30-28) and Chicago (30-28) for seventh place in the Eastern Conference.

The Raptors had their four-game winning streak snapped.

Terrence Ross scored 27 points for the Raptors.

Magic 130, Sixers 116

In Orlando, rookie Mario Hezonja dunked four seconds into his first NBA start, finishing with 13 points, and Orlando led all the way in a victory over Philadelphia.

Nik Vucevic and Victor Oladipo scored 28 points each and Aaron Gordon added a career-high 22 for the Magic.

Jahlil Okafor scored 26 points for the 76ers, who lost their eighth straight.

Starting in place of injured forward Evan Fournier, Hezonja's game-opening baskets got the Magic off to an 11-0 start and they shot 65 percent (30-for-46) in dominating the first half.

Oladipo, Vucevic and Gordon all reached double figures in a 40-point first quarter, Orlando's highest-scoring quarter of the season.

NFL salary cap set at $155.27 million for 2016

NEW YORK (AP)—The NFL's salary cap for 2016 will be $155.27 million, an increase of nearly $12 million.

The NFL Players Association confirmed the figure Sunday, and will release the franchise and transition tag numbers on Monday. Free agency begins March 9, but teams must apply those tags by Tuesday.

Among the players whose contracts have expired and might wind up getting tagged are Super Bowl MVP linebacker Von Miller of Denver, and other All-Pros such as Carolina cornerback Josh Norman, Tampa Bay running back Doug Martin and Kansas City safety Eric Berry.

Since the 10-year labor agreement was reached in 2011, the cap has risen more than $35 million per team. The increase is the largest since 2006, when the salary cap went up from $85.5 to $102 million.

This year's increase is based on several economic factors, including a new Thursday night TV package that includes both CBS and NBC. Other league revenues also exceeded projections in 2015.

Adding to the number last week was an arbitrator's ruling that the NFL had misplaced certain revenues that should have been applied to the cap. That put another $50 million overall into the cap.

Most teams have carried over a significant amount of salary cap room from last season, as allowed under the collective bargaining agreement. Jacksonville carried over the most space, $32.7 million, according to union figures.

The total carry-over amount from 2015 was $203,963,112, making the average carry-over per club $6.4 million.

Next behind Jacksonville were Tennessee with $20.78 million and Cleveland with $20.73 million. The Jaguars (5-11), Titans (3-11) and Browns (3-11) combined for 11 victories last season and they hold the first, second and fifth selections in April's draft.

The smallest carry-over amount was $11,587 by Seattle.

By the end of 2016, the 32 teams must spend an average of 95 percent of the salary cap over the four-year period that began in 2013.

Scott outlasts Garcia to win Honda Classic

AP
Sergio Garcia, of Spain, lines up a putt on the 13th hole during the fourth round of the Honda Classic golf tournament, Sunday, Feb. 28, 2016, in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.

PALM BEACH GARDENS, Fla. (AP)—Adam Scott tapped in a 30-inch par putt to win the Honda Classic on Sunday, and the smile was more relief than joy over ending the longest drought of his career.

A small measure of satisfaction might come from the silence he hopes will follow.

Yes, he still can win with a short putter.

In his third tournament since a new rule that outlaws the anchored stroke Scott used for a long putter the last five years, he made enough putts at PGA National for an even-par 70 to hold off Sergio Garcia and win for the first time since Colonial in May 2014.

"Probably good for everybody who likes talking about it, absolutely," Scott said. "And therefore, good for me. Good for me because maybe we don't have to go over it too much anymore. Again, it just reassures me I'm on the right track with the things I'm doing on the greens, and I'm just going to try and get better every week. And I think it's in a great spot at the moment.

"If I can get better and better, then I like what's to come."

Scott opened with a 10-foot birdie putt that set the tone, and he seized control early on the back nine when Garcia missed a 3-foot par putt on the 11th hole, and Scott followed with a 9-iron out of a bunker to 2 feet for birdie and a two-shot lead.

Garcia made birdie on the final hole for a 71, forcing Scott to convert his short par putt.

"He played really, really solid," Garcia said. "I played with him the last two days, and he looked awesome. I know I can play better. That's the good thing. Without feeling like I was swinging that great, I still managed to have a chance, so I'm happy with that."

It was the first time Scott won with a short putter since the 2010 Singapore Open. He switched to a long putter that he anchored to his chest at the Match Play Championship and when he won the Masters in 2013, he was the fourth player in six majors to use an anchored putting stroke.

It was outlawed at the start of this year, and Scott had grown weary of talking about it. Overlooked was that he had won 18 times worldwide with a short putter, including The Players Championship and the Tour Championship. He even led the tour in the "strokes gained" category over Tiger Woods, Brad Faxon and Steve Stricker in 2004, before the tour began publishing that data.

The Honda Classic

All the evidence he needed was the trophy he held on Sunday.

"I've kind of said it the whole time. I don't think it's going to be that big a deal for me," Scott said. "It's some hard work, and I'm not afraid of that. I'm glad it's going in the right direction, and I've putted pretty solid the last couple weeks, and I want to make sure that keeps going."

The final round was a duel between Scott and Garcia, though Justin Thomas and Blayne Barber both got within two shots at one point on the back nine. Barber didn't make a birdie over the final seven holes and shot 70. Thomas took double bogey from the back bunker on the par-3 17th and closed with a 69. They tied for third, four shots behind.

Scott had one last hurdle to clear.

Garcia made his first birdie of the round with a 6-foot putt on the 14th hole to close to within one shot. They headed to the tee on the par-3 15th over water, where a day earlier Scott hit two balls into the water and made a quadruple-bogey 7, going from a three-shot lead to a one-shot deficit.

It helped that the tee was moved forward to make it only 151 yards (instead of 179 yards), though the front pin was close to the water. Scott was ready to hit 8-iron when he felt a small puff of wind in his face and backed off the shot. He got back in quickly when he felt the wind die, and the ball landed safely 30 feet away.

After both made careless bogeys on the 16th, Scott faced one more par 3 over the water on the 17th hole, where fans holding beer in both hands hurled insults at Scott and Garcia as they stood on the tee. "Two more in the water, Adam," one man yelled.

Scott had a 7-iron that he hit "as hard as I could," and it was a relief to see it find the green. He took a two-shot lead to the final hole when Garcia made bogey, and only needed a simple par for the victory.

Scott finished at 9-under 271 and moved to No. 9 in the world, his highest ranking in 10 months.

The timing was perfect.

This was only his 10th event since a permanent switch to the short putter dating to the Presidents Cup, and he has finished out of the top 10 only twice since then. And he finally had another victory.

"I want to feel somewhat relevant out here when it comes to being one of the best players in the world," he said. "That's just down to my results. You can talk it in your head and try and build yourself up as much as you want. But at some point, you're going to have to have the results to actually prove it."

Pirates say they made a mistake in salary offer to ace Cole

BRADENTON, Fla. (AP)—Pittsburgh Pirates general manager Neal Huntington on Sunday acknowledged the team erroneously computed Gerrit Cole's salary offer for 2016, which led to a public spat with their ace pitcher.

The Pirates initially offered Cole a $538,000 contract, which was a $7,000 increase over his base salary last year. According to Huntington, that was a franchise-record pay hike for a player with only two-plus years of big league service time.

However, Cole's total earnings last season were $541,000 because he got a $10,000 bonus for making the National League All-Star team.

"I understand the business of this game, but it is hard to accept that a year of performance success does not warrant an increase in pay," Cole told the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review.

Cole went 19-8 with a 2.60 ERA and finished fourth in the Cy Young Award voting. He was the Pirates' starting pitcher in the NL wild-card game.

Because Cole has less than three year's major league service time, the Pirates can impose any salary over the minimum of $507,500.

The Pirates use an in-house algorithm to determine salary increases for their "zero-to-three" players. Huntington said the system weighs service time, playing time and performance.

When Cole's figure was computed, however, his All-Star bonus was not included. Cole's agent, Scott Boras, balked when the Pirates gave him the $538,000 offer.

"We made a mistake in the process," Huntington said. "We didn't have to move (the figure). We felt they made a valid point (and) we made the adjustment."

The team raised Cole's salary to $541,000. When Cole asked for a larger increase - something that would put him over his 2015 earnings total - the Pirates refused to budge.

"They even threatened a salary reduction to the league minimum if I did not agree," Cole told the Tribune-Review.

Cole grudgingly signed the contract for $541,000, then told the Tribune-Review about his situation.

"Gerrit strikes a note that most people can empathize with," Huntington said. "I'm sure there are many people in this world who don't feel they are adequately compensated for what they do. The challenge we have is there is a collectively bargained system in place and it's been in place for years."

Some teams are willing to give hefty increases to star players. In 2014, Los Angeles Angels outfielder Mike Trout got $1 million, a record for a pre-arbitration deal, about a month before agreeing to a $144.5 million, six-year extension.

The Pirates prefer to take a hard-line approach.

"Once you make an exception, how do you draw the line?" Huntington said. "If it's only for MVPs, what if someone wins a Cy Young? Or what if someone finishes fifth in the Rookie of the Year voting? Some clubs have the ability to go in different directions, higher or lower. We believe our system is consistent and it's the right way to do things for us."

Huntington said the Pirates' salary process will include bonuses in the future.

"We'll evolve," Huntington said. "Our hope is that Gerrit is ready to move forward, put this behind him and recognize that the better year he has, the better year we have, it's good for all."

Meanwhile, in Arizona, free agent Ian Desmond has agreed to a one-year contract with the Texas Rangers that will include a move to the outfield for the one-time All-Star shortstop who was expected to be in their camp Monday.

The deal was near completion after Desmond passed his physical Sunday, according to a baseball official who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because there was no official announcement from the team. The $8 million deal was first reported earlier in the day by Fox Sports.

Desmond is expected to play left field for the AL West champion Rangers. The 30-year-old has started only one of his 927 career games in the outfield while playing all seven of his major league seasons with the Washington Nationals.

Josh Hamilton will start the season on the disabled list for Texas, and is expected to miss at least the first month of the season because of issues with his surgically repaired left knee.

"I want what's best for the team. I want to do whatever I can obviously on the field to help the team win, but if I'm not there, I expect them to put somebody out there that's going to give us the best chance to win," Hamilton said Sunday after word of the deal spread through camp.

Rashford double helps Man United beat Arsenal

MANCHESTER, England (AP)—Teenage striker Marcus Rashford continued the dream start to his Manchester United career, scoring two goals and setting up another in a 3-2 win over title-chasing Arsenal in the Premier League on Sunday.

Only playing because of United's chronic injury crisis, the 18-year-old Rashford marked his league debut by scoring in the 29th and 32nd minutes to put his team 2-0 ahead—three days after a double in the Europa League against FC Midtjylland on his senior United debut.

After former United striker Danny Welbeck replied for Arsenal, Rashford set up Ander Herrera for a shot from the edge of the area that deflected in off Laurent Koscielny.

Mesut Ozil made it 3-2 in the 69th but fifth-place United held on comfortably to move three points off the top four. Arsenal, which put in an off-color performance against a young and injury-hit United side, dropped five points behind leader Leicester and hasn't won in the league at Old Trafford since 2006.

United manager Louis van Gaal, under much pressure amid the team's troubles this season, delivered some light relief when he fell to the ground theatrically while remonstrating with the fourth official in the technical area. The Old Trafford crowd roared with laughter and finished the match singing Van Gaal's name, adding to an atmosphere that was buoyant throughout the game as United's youngsters proved too energetic for Arsenal.

That was particularly the case with Rashford, who must think professional soccer is easy. In his first two games as a pro -- both of them high-profile ones -- in the space of three days, the striker has scored as many goals as Radamel Falcao did in a whole year for United last season.

"I could imagine the first game he did that because he is a striker coming in to score goals and the first match is always good," Van Gaal said. "The second match he has to do what the manager is willing him to do, and he did it fantastically."

Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger was also impressed with Rashford, who hadn't started a game above under-19 level before Thursday.

"The timing and intelligence of his movement was great," Wenger said. "He could be a very positive surprise for Man United."

With his direct running and composure, Rashford is showing no fear on the biggest stage and demonstrated to Van Gaal that the Dutchman has had a goal poacher at his disposal all along during the team's rough patch this season. Injured pair Wayne Rooney and Anthony Martial are among the strikers unavailable to Van Gaal at present.

Rashford was given a standing ovation by United fans when he was substituted after 80 minutes.

For his first goal, the young striker was lurking 12 meters out as Gabriel failed to adequately clear Guillermo Varela's cross. A first-time shot was too pacey for Arsenal goalkeeper Petr Cech as Rashford became United's third-youngest Premier League scorer.

Three minutes later, Rashford was celebrating again after heading home a clipped right-wing cross from Jesse Lingard from just outside the six-yard box. Wenger, who said Friday that he hadn't heard of Rashford, threw up his hands in disgust.

Ghasias barges into win column, tops Mobil/JP World

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Freddie Pelisamen exploded for 37 points to power Ghasias Brothers to a 93-81 win over Mobil/JP World in the lone game completed in the DL Corp Invitational Basketball League Season 5 last Saturday at the San Antonio court.

The victory was the first for Ghasias Brothers, which also played in the league's opening day two weeks ago and led Kauila Enterprises, 59-50, before their match was stopped in the third quarter due to rain.

Against Mobil/JP World, which prevailed in the league's opener versus the defending champion San Antonio, 85-69, Ghasias managed to wrap up the match and rode on Pelisamen's steady shooting to deny the former the early lead in the nine-team field.

Pelisamen poured 9 points in the first period to lift Ghasias to a 19-12 advantage. Pelisamen added 6 more in the second, but the quarter belonged to Dan Barcinas, who knocked in 10 points, including two triples, to keep Ghasias in the driver's seat at the break, 44-39.

At the resumption of the match, Pelisamen and Barcinas were still on target, but this time they also drew help from Marvin Rabauliman and Jack Lizama to give Ghasias its biggest lead, 68-52. Barcinas drilled his third triple of the night, padding Ghasias lead to as much as 16 before Mobil/JP World made a little headway in the last two minutes of that period behind Allen Dizon and Ignacio Borja. The two Mobil/JP World players scored their team's last 10 markers in the third canto to bring the deficit down to 12, 59-71, going into the final frame.

However, Ghasias protected the double-digit advantage in the fourth quarter, as Mobil/JP World failed to neutralize Pelisamen in the closing period. Pelisamen fired 12 points in the fourth, making most of them off fastbreak plays, as Mobil/JP World turned the ball over several times early in that frame and the Ghasias gunner converted the errors into points.

Meanwhile, last Saturday's second game between Hite Jinro and CES Electronics was rained out in the first period.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Ghasias Brothers' Freddie Pelisamen pulls up for an and-1 play against JP World/Mobil's Ignacio Borja during the fourth quarter of their game in the DL caging last Saturday at the San Antonio court.

Ghasias 93 — F. Pelisamen 37, Barcinas, 19, Lizama 11, Rabauliman 8, B. Pelisamen 8, Lisua 5, Basa 3, J. Pelisamen 2.

Mobil/JP World 81 — Borja 18, Lilles 14, Camacho 12, Mangali 8, Villacrusis 6, Pagarao 6, Dizon 6, Quan 4, Ferrer 3.

Scoring by quarters: 19-12, 44-39, 71-59, 93-81.

TUTTLE

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nis Classic, had the last laugh in the third tournament of the season after rallying past junior player Moris Villanuva in the finals.

The CNMI Sports Hall of Famer bowed to Villanueva in the opening set, 4-6, before flashing his old lethal form in the last two, 6-2, 6-1, to record a come-from-behind win. Before his super tiebreaker third set victory against Villanueva, Race swept two opponents to march into the finals as he defeated Vincent Tudela, 6-2, 6-2, and Raj Rai, 6-4, 6-1. Rai punched the semis ticket at the bottom half of the draw after eliminating Robbie Schorr, 7-5, 6-3.

At the top half of the draw, Villanueva knocked off Dong Min Lee, 6-4, 6-1, and Michael Ren, 6-1, 3-0 (retired) to set up a finals duel against Race. Ren challenged Villanueva for the right to face Race in the finals after winning over Steven Goodwin, 6-2, 6-1.

In the women's Open singles, which used a round-robin format, Carol Lee finished on top after beating Isabel Heras, 6-0, 6-1, and shutting down Asia Raulerson. Heras ended up at second place after a 7-6 (7-4) , 6-2 triumph over Raulerson.

In the men's 3.0 singles, Ji Min Woo dominated Sean Lee in the finals, 6-0, 6-2, to collect his third singles title in the PIC tournament. Woo, who took the boys U12 and U14 crowns in Week 1, moved a win away from a third straight championship after ousting J.R. Jacinto in the semis, 6-4, 6-2. Lee, on the other hand, won over Nick Villalon, 7-6, (7-4), 6-2, to advance to the finals.

In the men's 4.0 singles finals, Donn Dunlop also needed only two sets to prevail against Gary Ramsey, 6-2, 6-2.

TSUNAMI

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their diving, underwater kick, surfacing, turn, and other factors that will make a difference in the results," Kimura said.

The seven Tsunami Saipan swimmers will have two events each in the Tokyo Junior Sprint 2016, which will be held on March 5 and 6 at the Tatsumi International Swimming Arena.

Aika will race in the 50m backstroke and 100m individual medley in the 11 to 12 age group, while her younger sister Nanaka will compete in the 50m breaststroke and 100m IM in the 9 to 10 division. Tenorio is also entered in the 100m IM, while his other event is the 50mbackstroke in the 11 to 12 age group. Batallones has the boys 11 to 12's 50m freestyle and 50m butterfly, the same two events lined up for the 10-year-old Camacho. Aleksenko is also joining the 50m freestyle race and adding the 50m butterfly event in the 9 to 10 division, while the 9-year-old Dangol has the 50m butterfly swim, too in her schedule, plus the 100m IM.

All seven have won medals in Guam tournaments in the past so experience in off-island competitions will not be a problem. Camacho, Aika, and Batallones, however, will be making their debuts in the Tokyo Junior Sprint 2016, while the other members of the team are returnees.

This year's Tsunami Saipan squad is the second biggest crew the club sent in the sprint tournament. Last year, the group fielded the most swimmers (9). In its debut in 2008, Tsunami Saipan sent only one swimmer (Kensuke Kimura), while the club had two and five in 2009 and 2010 before having six in 2012 and four in 2014.

CUKI

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good you are with rolling with higher belts," the Trench Tech promoter said.

Alvarez added he trained under Roberto who has a second degree black belt and is with Mike Fowler and Enson Enoue. Enoue, according to Alvarez, is the original founder of Purebred BJJ of Omiya Japan in Tokyo.

The Trench Tech head considered his latest achievement very significant in the promotion of BJJ in the CNMI.

"This is a huge advancement for me in my journey to becoming a black belt. I am literally halfway there and I am focusing and setting my goals to get my black belt in the next five years or sooner," the father of MMA fighter Shane Alvarez said.

"The next goal is brown belt. Frank 'The Crank' Camacho is a brown belt and it took him seven years to get promoted to that level. He is focused and training diligently and working hard in getting his black in the next few years. When that happens, he'll become the very first Saipanese to receive the rank," he said.

The black belt will give the practitioner the license to teach and promote others.

"This is good for the CNMI because it will inspire others to join this gentle art and learn BJJ. Once I reach the rank of black belt, both Frank and I will then become official professors and we'll be able to promote and belt our students," Alvarez said.

Meanwhile, Alvarez said BJJ is for men, women, and children and Trench Tech offers classes every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday at the TT Gym in Garapan.

"It is my desire and goal to build the interest and grow the numbers of BJJ practitioners here in the CNMI. Once we create a good player base, we can then compete in a number of regional and international tournaments around the world," Alvarez said.

For more information on BJJ classes, contact Alvarez at 783-4MMA (4662) or at Twitter @TrenchwarZ or at facebook.com/cuki.alvarez.

2016 SSC Pentathlon Meet

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Saipan Swim Club's Jinie Thompson races in the 50m freestyle event in the 2016 SSC Pentathlon Meet held last Feb. 20 at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

Tsunami Saipan's Miku Tammy jumps from the starting block for the 100m butterfly event.

Tsunami Saipan's Isaiah Aleksenko does the butterfly stroke of the 200m individual medley event.

Saipan Swim Club's Christian Villacrusis does the backstroke back of the 200m individual medley race.

Saipan Swim Club's Lennosuke Suzuki turns around for the freestyle stroke of the 200m individual medley race.

Saipan Swim Club's R.J. Pierce nears completion of the butterfly stroke of the 200m individual medley event.

Saipan Swim Club's Wataru Kadokura, left, and Dino Sato pose for a photo after completing their races.

Tsunami Saipan's Anthony Camacho-Deleon Guerrero stretches before stepping on the starting block.

Tsunami Saipan's Sophia Gauran races in the 50m butterfly swim.

Wizards rip LeBron-less Cavaliers

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Sports

Scott outlasts Garcia to win Honda Classic

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Tuttle gets first singles title of season

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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Erika Tuttle ended her string of runner-up victories this season after winning the women' s 3.0 singles event in the 16th PIC Tennis Championships held over the weekend at the Pacific Islands Club courts.

The CNMI junior player earned her first singles crown in the 2015-2016 season following a 6-1, 6-0 finals victory over Sakiko Eda last Sunday. Tuttle made it to the finals after sweeping another adult player Chiharu Sato last Saturday, 6-4, 6-1, while Eda advanced when she topped Seon Hee Kim in the other semis pairing, 6-0, 6-3.

Before her title conquest last weekend, Tuttle had bridesmaid finishes in first three tournaments under Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association's calendar of events. In the 7th Tan Holdings Tennis Classic held in November last year. Tuttle lost in the girls U12 finals against Coume Kaga, 3-6, 4-6. In the girls U14 singles contest of the 2016 White Coconut Tennis Classic early last month, she fell to Kaga anew in the semis, 2-6, 6-2, 7-10, while Tuttle absorbed another finals defeat at the hands of the same foe in the opening week of the PIC tournament, 4-6, 6-3, 1-6.

Meanwhile, four other players ruled the remaining singles events that were featured in the second and final week of the annual competition.

One of them was CNMI coach Jeff Race, who also got his first singles title of the season after topping the men's Open field. Race, who lost in the semifinals to Bobby Cruz in the 7th Tan Holdings Ten-

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Erika Tuttle returns to Sakiko Eda during their women's 3.0 singles title match in the 16th PIC Tennis Championships last Sunday at the Pacific Islands Club courts.

Cuki earns purple belt

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The CNMI's Cuki Alvarez, left, poses with fellow BJJ practitioner Alice Mendoza during the promotional ceremony in the Purebred BJJ Academy Guam last weekend.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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CNMI mixed martial arts stalwart Cuki Alvarez is halfway through his dream black belt after receiving a purple one last week in Guam.

"I finally received my purple belt, 'Faixa Roxa' in Brazilian under professor Stephen Roberto from Purebred BJJ Academy Guam. I have been training in BJJ on and off for eight years," Alvarez told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview yesterday.

The purple belt is ranked third in the level of progression in BJJ. The first two are white and blue, brown and black for fourth and fifth, and the ultimate one is red (grand master).

"It takes anywhere from 3 to 5 years to reach this level (purple) depending on how quickly you excel, how you fair in tournaments, and how

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Tsunami Saipan swimmers face tough competition in Tokyo

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The seven Tsunami Saipan swimmers heading to Japan this weekend are in for a tough ride in the Tokyo Junior Sprint 2016.

"This batch of swimmers will have the toughest competition because they will go to the tournament without enough training due to Typhoon Soudelor, " said Tsunami Saipan head coach Hiro Kimura.

The group is composed of Aika and Nanaka Watanabe, Nelson Batallones, Juhn Tenorio, Anthony Camacho-Deleon Guerrero, Isaiah Aleksenko, and Ashley Dangol. They had limited training sessions after Typhoon Soudelor struck Saipan last Aug. 2 and left the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool closed for several months.

"The past teams we sent to Tokyo had enough practice, but this year it's different. However, I know our swimmers will never give up in every race. They will do their very best," Kimura said.

To make up for the insufficient training sessions, the Tsunami Saipan mentor has been polishing the skills and techniques of the seven swimmers in the last three months.

"The difference between the winner and the losers in a race could be 0.1 of a second so we are fine tuning their techniques. We are focusing on

See TSUNAMI on Page 26

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The seven Tokyo-bound Tsunami Saipan swimmers pose for a group photo before their training session at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool last week.